

On November 12, 2014 the Rogers City Area Ambulance Authority Board held a meeting in the Presque Isle County Courthouse Courtroom. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kirk Schaedig, at 6:00, Secretary, Martha Roznowski called the roll.

Bearinger Township	Archie Patterson	Belknap Township	Allan Berg
Bismarck	John Kleiber	Krakow Township	Absent
Metz Township	Louis Urban	Moltke Township	Kirk Schaedig
Ocqueoc	Jerry Counterman	Posen Township	Jim Zakshesky
Pulawski Township	Martha Roznowski	Rogers City	Scott McLennan
Rogers Township	Randy Smolinski	Allied EMS Rep.	George Korthauer
Allied EMS Rep.	Jim Fleury	Allied EMS Rep.	Debra Meert
Allied Attorney	Bridget Brown Powers		

Allied currently serves 5 entities. However, starting in 2015 Emmet County will no longer contract with them. This will cause a loss of about 57% of monies for operation. The new structure cost will have to be shared by the 4 remaining entities. If anyone does not want to go forward the rest can't continue, all will have to stay.

George Korthauer stated there was a meeting in Antrim county and they are very interested in continuing with Allied. Allied is working on redoing a contract with them. They are interested in a long term contract. There is a great concern about the increased costs that will need to be spread among the remaining entities.

Discussion was held on the possibility of members joining the Board of Directors. They suggested 2 representatives from each entity could be on the board. The Board of Directors must be a minimum of 4 members and a maximum of 11. For us to have representation on the board several would have to resign. The organization, as we want would be considered a conflict of interest and we would not have voting power. The current board members are all from Emmet County, except one. They have a wide range of resources, including an emergency physician, a CPA and another trained in emergency medicine. Their knowledge would be important for good decision making. Questions arose about how much interest the current Board Of Directors would have if they are from Emmet County and what incentive would they have to control cost. Allied board of Directors could allow someone from Presque Isle County to serve, as a representative on the Allied board, but they could not have any affiliation with the Rogers City Area Ambulance Authority. It was asked if the by laws of Allied could be changed to allow us to nominate someone to serve on their board and the answer was no.

We are interested in knowing what the other entities are thinking and need to establish a means of communication with them so there are no surprises or threats. We all need to know what is occurring and all on the same page. George says Antrim has expressed they do not want to get into the administrative end of the service. Nor do we. Questions about meeting the increased cost was discussed. The authority can levi up to 1 mil, however, with this unexpected change, the long term plan for purchasing trucks will be tight. There are fixed costs in administration but shortfalls come with the volume of runs. More runs would make it easier to pay. St Ignace is concerned with the cost increase. They do not have an authority and would not be able form one without having a vote in the 2016 election.

Allied is a private company in business and does not want to give that up. They are working on a 15 year contract draft. The cost would increase for the first 3 years and thereafter the increase would be the rate of inflation. Allied passed out copies of the drafts based on what Antrim county saw fit. See paragraphs 14 and 21. Most of the draft was taken from current contract. They ask that we review it and bring it up at our December meeting.

Bridget thinks we can get out of the building lease and states they are working on an agreement.

George is the current CEO of Allied and states he will be stepping down. Debra Meert does the numbers and is expected to stay on.

Allan Berg ask why can't the groups get together and restructure ambulance service? There must be some way we could create a legal unit. We were told it could be done but would be very difficult. People would need knowledge in administration, insurance billings, union contracts and employee benefits, to list a few. The board members would have to have administration knowledge of the business as well as medical knowledge to make good decisions. Also, without Allied new service and medicine licenses would have to be secured and it could take many months, possibility a year or more.

The board ask if we could talk with Jim about options, and then pick members to represent this board in a joint meeting with the other entities. Jim is an employee of Allied and George is his boss so the lawyer ask us not to do that. Therefore, Allied will leave and we can discuss it. The board thanked Allied for coming and answering our questions

Opinion of the board was we don't think it is as smooth as they want us to believe. Therefore, we want to check on what others are thinking. It was suggested we choose 3 members from our board to act as an ambulance advisory board and meet with the other entities.

A motion was made by John Kleiber to have Kirk Schaedig, Allan Berg, and Archie Patterson represent us. Seconded by Louis Urban. All in favor and the motion carried,

Allan Berg made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Archie Patterson. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m..

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 6:00.

Submitted by Martha Roznowski,
Secretary, Rogers City Area Ambulance Authority