

MINUTES

**AMBULANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

Committee members present: Libby Casas, Owen Casas, Tracy Weed (Chair), Heather Jackson, Scott Esancy, Ken Keiran, Jeff Grinnell

Others present: Jesse Thompson (EMS Chief), Kevin McGinnis

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Tracy Weed
- 2. Approve minutes of July 25, 2022:**

Tracy had a correction: in the staffing section, it should read “number of Advanced license level” rather than “Advances.”

Motion to approve with above correction by: Libby Casas
2nd by: Ken Keiran
6-0-1 (Jackson)

- 3. Kevin McGinnis Presentation over ICSD:**

Kevin’s background is 45 plus years in EMS. He was the state EMS director in the ‘80s and ‘90s then was asked to do evaluations. He later became the director of what is now North Star in Franklin County – five ambulances services that wanted to consolidate and They had a for-profit service, a volunteer service, a very large corporate not-for-profit service, and a municipal service so all different backgrounds and personalities.

He discussed the financial picture under a hospital, Medicare/Medicaid, one kind of system for billing and reimbursement, etc. The fallout was it was going to increase the subsidies for towns substantially depending on what level of service they wanted to have. He began trying to explain it to the towns in Franklin County.

He found he first had to explain EMS, and people have no idea what will come when they dial 911. He did a lot of explaining and informing. They gave every town choices: basic level of service or advanced level of service, costs, difference in mil rate, bases and response times. The taxpayers made their choices, and Franklin County now has a cohesive ambulance service.

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In 2004 he was part of a national effort to write a consensus book, *The Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future*, published by the National World Health Association. One concept that came out of it was ICSD (Informal Community Self Determination) essentially saying the Franklin County process was cool because the taxpayers got to make the decisions about their EMS. Since then, he's done more ICSD in Maine and outside Maine. He did a successful one in St. George in 2010. He just did one in Jackson where they came up with an interesting way of providing service: having paramedics in the clinic nights and weekends and providing care as physician extenders with telehealth connection to St. Joseph's in Bangor. A physician from Bangor came up with the idea. It was a big intensive process: whole town in gym for a good 4-hour meeting.

An informal group called the Rural Health Action Network wrote a paper about ICSD. One of the people in that group launched the Maine Health Access Foundation which gives money to improve health access. They asked to write a proposal for a grant for two ICSD sections in the state, further proof of concept. Long story short Union's application was chosen. The legislature voted by \$200,000 to do more of these in the state.

ICSD is aimed at rural, small services or services that are in danger of closing. The purpose is to do an evaluation of the service, find out what level is being provided, its characteristics then to figure out what issues need to be addressed and come up with options for addressing those. Increased funding or changes in operation may be involved. He walked the committee through a slide presentation further detailing ICSD and will provide hard copies.

The organizing entity of ICSD is Friends of EMS for Maine, a small informal 501c3. He is president and does the ICSD program. Friends did a 14-year-long process to establish the Maine EMS Memorial which is unique in the US. The funding organization is Maine Health Access Foundation.

Another ICSD guy is Jay Bradshaw, who was state EMS director, and Mike Senecal who is director of NorthStar. A fourth may or may not be involved as well as interns and apprentices.

He went over the five parts of the process: Agreement, Assessment, Alternative Models and Cost Impact, Decision Makers Forum, and Operating Model Chosen/Funded.

In answer to Tracy, Jesse said we have two of the three signatures from the towns for the agreement and are still waiting on Appleton. In answer to Libby, re: rejected large increase in funding, Jesse said that could be part of it but it will not be just a revisiting. Kevin said the group has to come up with numbers before going to the taxpayers. In answer to Heather, re: assessing what the people want, Kevin mentioned options such as mailings and informational meetings as well his between two and three dozen interviews he will do beforehand. They could do EMS 101 for whoever shows up. Libby said EMS is one of those things you don't care about until you need it. Kevin discussed impacts of education.

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Kevin also went over the assessment, kinds of options and different levels of service that have worked well in the past. He offered a timeline noting the process will almost be done by the end of the year. He discussed future meetings with the committee geared toward agreeing on what the issues are, then brainstorming answers; then it's his job to go back and put it into words. For his purposes during this period the committee will meet as much as once a week, as little as once a month or less.

Jesse noted budget deadlines such as typically January 15 for Washington, hence some urgency. Kevin said committee members can be at those meetings to support and explain things. Last year's ambulance budget and problems were discussed.

The committee thanked Kevin for his presentation.

Conversation continued with Kevin about last year's budget, the committee's work, and the dilemma of Medicare/Medicaid not paying enough; the state needs to pay. Kevin said there will be a \$65 million proposal. There will be a meeting September 1 at the State House; it's called the Blue Ribbon Commission, and it will hold six meetings.

Tracy thanked everyone for the great conversation.

4. Review/discussion of information committee requested:

Jesse pointed out the debrief page as requested added to the packet. He is waiting on that last signature before getting it to the board. He pointed out the listing of his entire roster as well as the last page showing overtime (January 1 to June 30, 2022); in a six-month period, we expended roughly \$14,000 in overtime.

5. Set next meeting date:

Monday, September 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Re: future agenda items, Tracy suggested she, Jeff, and Jesse put together information such as what EMS is, the history, the license levels, etc. Jesse is still pushing forward with programs he's been trying to work on. He has submitted our Community Paramedic license application; they have four days to approve or deny, and there is grant money out there that we have to apply for. He looks at everything as an umbrella of serving three towns.

6. Adjourn:

Motion by: Ken Keiran

2nd by: Owen Casas

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Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary