

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (the “Board”) was held on Friday, June 5, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the IS&T Conference Room, Lafayette City Hall.

Attendees: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Ray Bias, Celest Cruz, William Ritchey, and Karen Rue
Absent: Donna Landry (by proxy)
Guests: Cydra Wingerter, CAO, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Debbie Sonnier, Executive Secretary to CAO, Cydra Wingerter, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Troy Guidry, Director of Operations, Acadian Ambulance and Air-Med Services
Justin Back, Regional Vice-President, Acadian Ambulance and Air-Med Services
Mike Hebert, Becker & Hebert, LLC, Legal Counsel

Call to Order

Board Chairman, Dr. Paul Azar, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am in accordance with Article II, Section 7-18 of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Code of Ordinances (the “Code”).

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Board member Karen Rue to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Board member Ray Bias. There was no further discussion and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Ray Bias, Celest Cruz, William Ritchey, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Donna Landry (by proxy)

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of Annual Report

Board members were provided a copy of the 2019 Annual Report to the City-Parish Council. Debbie Sonnier will continue to prepare and submit the Annual Report (Per 7-21 of the City-Parish Code of Ordinances, the Board shall at least annually give to the City-Parish Council a written report of the Board’s activities for the prior year) to the Clerk of Council.

Motion was made by Board member Stephanie Arceneaux to approve the Annual Report to the City-Parish Council. The motion was seconded by Board member William Ritchey. There being no questions, additions or corrections, Dr. Azar asked for a vote to accept the Annual Report as presented and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Ray Bias, Celest Cruz, William Ritchey, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Donna Landry (by proxy)

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Acadian Ambulance

Mike Hebert was present to address an issue that arose in November, 2019, but unable to address until now due to COVID-19.

The Code of Ordinances and the contract with Acadian have a provision that states that Acadian must have an 8-minute or less response time on at least 80% of all calls originating in the City of Lafayette. In November 2019, Acadian's response time on that standard was 78.5%. The Board has the ability to levy a fine against Acadian, which varies according to the percentage by which Acadian deviated from the required response time. In this instance, the fine would be \$500. The Board is not required to levy that fine, but the Board is required to consider the question of whether or not Acadian should be assessed with the fine. Acadian is entitled to a hearing in which they could show good cause why they should not be levied that fine.

Today's agenda does not permit the Board to do those things and have those hearings, it would have to be separately noticed. He suggested that the next Board meeting agenda have two items:

1. Hearing for Acadian to show cause for failure to attain the response times
2. A vote on the question of whether Acadian should be levied the \$500 fine

Board Member, Karen Rue asked to have the data/information to review prior to the next meeting, which explains the deviation. It was agreed upon to receive the information by secure email but Mike Hebert reminded the Board that there is to be no communication or deliberation between members as it would be an open meetings law violation.

Troy Hebert commented that this was the first time in the history of the company that they had not been in compliance, and some significant equipment updates have been made to avoid it happening again. He is happy to answer any questions at the hearing.

It was agreed that a meeting would be set up in the next 4-6 weeks for a hearing since there could be no further discussion in regards to the issue during this meeting.

Board Appointments

Mike Hebert commented on the new charter, which requires that by June, 2020, every single City and Parish Board or Commission be either reorganized or acknowledged to make sure that it reflects the change in the charter where there are separate City and Parish Councils, and it is clarified who is the appointing authority. The EMS Board was one of the many boards and commissions that went before the councils for reorganization.

Both the City Council and the Parish Council passed an ordinance recognizing the existing EMS Board, and it did not make any changes whatsoever, in his opinion, except for the wording because of the Councils being separate instead of one. Under the new ordinance, the City Council and the Parish Council will jointly, by majority vote of both of their memberships, appoint three members to the board. Current members will continue to serve their term.

There are no term openings this year, and there were no questions regarding each member's terms.

Other Business

Board member Karen Rue requested a follow up on the mileage rate issue with Acadian Ambulance. Debbie Sonnier was unable to get information from LCG’s current CFO. Troy Hebert was asked to present what he found out from his contact person. Per Troy, there are a number of variances included in the mileage. The IRS imbursement rate is taken into account, but other things are added to that mileage. It was requested that the Board have access to the breakdown of these variances in the mileage. Troy agreed to provide that to Debbie, and Debbie will send to the board members before the next scheduled meeting.

Board member Karen Rue requested to keep Donna and her family in prayer, since her brother passed away this week.

Dr. Azar opened up the floor to questions directed to him in dealing with the Coronavirus Task Force. He complimented the city for the way this situation is being handled.

Dr. Azar brought up the issue of a hurricane being on its way, which will immobilize emergency service, regardless of its severity. He also voiced concern that if the current storm lingers, that it will be a water issue in the lower lying areas.

Per Troy Guidry, all of the facilities have been contacted and, so far, none will be evacuating. They do have an ‘am-bus’ in Louisiana now, which can transport sixteen patients at one time, versus five ambulances to move fifteen patients. They have a second ‘am-bus’ available, if needed, in conjunction with the state of Texas. This is new to the company, located in Ouachita Parish, Monroe, and currently being used for COVID-19, but can be pulled in for evacuations.

There being no other business, motion was made by Board member Karen Rue to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board member Ray Bias. There was no other discussion, and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Ray Bias, Celest Cruz, William Ritchey, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Donna Landry (by proxy)

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Karen Rue
Board Secretary