

MINUTES, ARIVACA FIRE DISTRICT

September 16, 2019

The Arivaca Fire District Governing Board met in Regular session Monday September 16, 2019 at the Arivaca Fire District Station, 16091 West Universal Ranch Road, Arivaca, Arizona for a regular board meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Shannon Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Mark Wiley
Beth Lusby
Justin Gibson
Shannon Bloom
Tangye Beckham

2. REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE

All present joined in.

B. Consent Agenda – Discussion/Possible action on approving the minutes from the following meetings

1. January 18, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting (Shannon and Beth Absent)
Tangye made a motion to approve and Mark seconded. Shannon called for a vote; motion carried 3-0 with Shannon and Beth abstaining
2. February 22, 2019 – Regular Board Meeting (Shannon and Mark Absent)
Beth made a motion to approve and Tangye seconded; Shannon called for a vote; motion carried 3-0 with Shannon and Mark abstaining
3. July 19, 2019 – Regular Board meeting (Justin Gibson was absent)
Beth made a motion to approve and Tangye seconded; Shannon called for a vote; motion carried 4-0 with Justin abstaining
4. August 29, 2019 – Regular Board meeting (Shannon and Tangye absent)
Beth made a motion to approve and Justin seconded; Shannon called for a vote; motion carried 3-0 with Shannon and Tangye abstaining.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Patti thanked Tangye for coming in over the weekend and signing all the subscription letters; there were about 130 of them. The subscription letters would be mailed on the 18th of September.

4. BUSINESS

A. Fire Chiefs Report for September 2019

Chief Austin gave an oral and written report. He commented he met with Chief Wunder of Green Valley Fire District as they have several vehicles they will be salvaging. He also commented that he had been looking at used ambulances and there was a 2016 with 6K miles that he was interested in.

B. Fire Board Chairperson Report –No report.

C. Discussion/Possible Action/Review and approval of September 2019 Finances. Financial Report, banking statements, check registers, balance statements, warrant account; confirm all board members received and reviewed all financial data.

All board members confirmed they had received and reviewed the September 2019 finances. Beth made a motion to approve the financial reports and Tangye seconded. Shannon called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Cash flow presented by Chief Austin up to September 15, 2019.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS – REPORTS ONLY NO DISCUSSION

- A. Report from Finance Committee – No Report
- B. Report from Pension Board – No Report.
- C. Report from Fire Wise Committee – Shannon reported there would be an Educational Meeting on November 2nd and 3rd, 2019 and it was open to the public
- D. Report from Strategic Planning Committee – Tangye reported a meeting was scheduled for October 4th, 2019 at 4 PM

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Public Discussion/possible action/motion on the ET3 program (Medicare) and the Community Integrated Paramedicine Program (Medicaid).

Nathan Lewis via Zoom meeting spoke. He stated the Community Paramedic Program was a single model that was established years ago and the model has been implemented into the treat and refer program. But that is not what the ET3 program is. The ET3 program is taking the lessons learned from the Community Paramedic Program and other models. The ET3 model is very similar to the military model. It will cut down on ER visits and admissions. Pima county does meet the requirements for the necessary transports to meet the criteria for the ET3 program. One of the limiting factors was whether or not we could get other providers on board. As of last week, AHCCS has approved to come on board. We are using that momentum to get other payers on board. We are able to share the RFA paperwork that we have put together so really there is not a lot of work to be done. We could push this forward to push forward for the extended deadline. I just sent the protocols to Chief Austin and Patti to be able to make this thing go.

Tangye commented that you must have paramedics to do ET3. So how are you planning on getting around that requirement of ALS?

Nathan commented that there are certain cases like psychiatric cases that can be done with a BLS provider. However, that does not prevent you for doing alternative destinations. Assessment wise, as long as they are not doing treatment, then you would have to have a paramedic to do treatment in place. This is about getting more paramedics on board. The goal of rural areas is this would create a revenue stream to get more paramedics on board.

Tangye commented that she had attended the ET3 meetings being associated with Rio Rico Fire and it is our understanding that it is not geared toward BLS provides. This has deterred some agencies from coming on board. I do agree Arivaca Fire would benefit from the ET3 if they had paramedics available and did not like an ALS from AMR in Green Valley. What protocols are you referring to when you say BLS can arrive on scene other than behavior health.

Nathan commented that BLS could do asthma, non-reactive, or they have run out of their albuterol. Similar to Rio Rico program but with telemedicine a script could be called in. So, there are some cases that could be handled at BLS level; not all cases but some. The single most element in the ET3 program is that you have an alternative destination other than the ER

room such as an Urgent Care Facility or the clinic. ALS could then supplement treatment in place. The problem with ALS vs. BLS is the ability to make sure the patient is an extremist. If they are able to capture and transmit a 12 lead, they could eliminate cardiac, they could also assess a migraine headache which is an alternative destination. So, there are a lot of cases that could be done with BLS. The push is to get ALS involved. By capturing some monetary dollars ALS could get involved.

Tangye commented that the other part of the application is having partnerships with the alternative destinations. And having a plan in place for after hour care.

Nathan commented that has been done and it is in the documentation. What we would have to do, is once Arivaca Fire gave the green light then they would reach out to the Arivaca Clinic. And then we would supplement 24/7 with telemedicine. Nathan commented he would not reach out to those agencies until Arivaca had given the green light.

Beth made a motion to move forward with this. Shannon asked for a second to the motion. There was no second. Patti asked Shannon if she wanted to put this on next month's agenda. Shannon commented yes.

Nathan asked if there were any other questions that may be potentially the road block on moving forward.

Tangye commented no, that he had answered her questions. This is what she does is working community paramedic and treat and refer and she is just not sure Arivaca Fire fits this model. She wishes it did.

Justin commented that at this time he does not see enough benefit for us to jump through the hoops. It sounds like a lot of things that could get mixed up. He just does not see the advantage at this point to Arivaca Fire.

Shannon asked Chief Austin what he thought about this program.

Chief Austin commented that at this point he did not think we were ready for it. We do need to get more paramedics on board. He is working on this. Once we get more on board and then we can discuss it more. Also, we would have to bypass the hospital to go to Urgent Care because our medical facility in Arivaca is only open 2 days a week for 8 hours a day so we cannot use them.

Tangye commented that she would like to see Arivaca move forward with Treat and Refer first. And see how that model would work for the community. Arivaca Fire would need more paramedics. The ET3 you would have to by telemedicine to have access to doctors and up. We have limited cell phone coverage where that connection may not be possible. Another problem is uploading a 12 lead that would not be possible in some areas.

Justin commented that even with Nathan on Zoom meeting he has glitched a couple of times and that is here at the Fire station. Basically, the best connection we have in Arivaca is still struggling. That is not going to be the connection we have in the field. In time we may have the connection we need; in time we may have the paramedics we need; in time we may have all the things we need. I am not saying ET3 is not good; I think it is good. It is just at this time I am just saying we are not set up yet for this type program.

Shannon commented that we would put this on hold until next month.

Shannon thanked Nathan for the Zoom meeting.

Nathan commented that he had been working on this since 2012 with state. He remembers when Rio Rico came on board. This is his life work. His system is completely ready when Arivaca fire is ready. It would not take any extra equipment. When Arivaca Fire is ready to go ahead everything is ready. We fully support this model.

Justin commented that if there was a need for something like this; if we were not able to supply the level of care needed in the valley, then he would be all for finding a way to make things work. I just cannot see all the possible mistakes that can happen under this program.

Mark commented that communications is a big problem with the internet being up and down.

Tangye commented that once you jump into this program you are tied in. You must follow everything. Just from a Wi-Fi perspective, we cannot guarantee at this time from that piece alone it will work. But I do support this program.

Justin commented that if we had more of a city environment then absolutely.

Tangye commented that it is geared toward rural areas, all three of the programs are, but there is an initial investment that district would have to incur. That would pay off in the long run. My knowledge is that at this time Arivaca Fire does not have the initial funds. The initial funds would be to get paramedics.

Justin commented there are little steps and those are hard to navigate and to go around these steps with BLS he just does not see that happening.

Justin made a motion to not go ahead with the ET3 program at this time. Mark seconded. Shannon called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. CALL TO PUBLIC

Tangye commented that she had offered before and she is offering again that if Arivaca Fire decides to go forward with Community Paramedic and Treat and Refer she will help with the paperwork and the training.

Shannon asked this to be put on a future agenda.

8. ADJOURMENT

Beth made a motion to adjourn and Mark seconded.

Shannon called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0

Shannon adjourned the meeting at 9:33 AM

The Next Meeting will be October 21, 2019 at 9:00 AM

October 21, 2019

Shannon Bloom, Chair

Tangye Beckham, Clerk