RUSK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 13, 2012

PRESENT:
Members – Arian Knops, Lyle Lieffring, Ken Pedersen, Phil Schneider and David Willingham
Others – Chief Deputy Hahn, Emergency Services Director Hall, City Council Member Mike Hraban

ABSENT:
Sheriff Kaminski

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
1. Knops called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
2. Lieffring/Pedersen motion to approve the agenda; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2012 MEETING MINUTES
3. Pedersen/Schneider motion to approve the minutes; motion carried.

RUSK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/AMBULANCE DIRECTOR PRESENTATION
4. Director Hall presented the May 2012 monthly report. Upcoming training for writing Epcra Plans (HAZMAT) was approved. May was EMS month and several ambulance squads participated in local events at the schools and larger daycare centers.

Hall discussed a potential EMT call pay raise of $.50. The current EMT call rate is $2.00/hour and $3.00/hour on holidays. Hall advised that the EM/AD proposed 2013 budget has funds to cover increasing the rate $.50. There are about 40 EMTs and 20 First Responders that Hall has on payroll. Issues with ambulance transfers and finding back-up crews were discussed. Hall also advised that due to the Ambulance Billing Clerk (Clerk III) being moved to the Finance Department’s Office and performing additional tasks for them [Finance] he is looking at budgeting for that position to be partially funded by the Finance Department to help pay those wages. Hall is also reviewing budget issues with paying RCMH nurses $1.00/minute to go on ambulance transfers. That $1.00/minute for transfers is IN ADDITION TO the RCMH nurses’ wage and transfer bonus that they already get paid by the hospital. Hall hasn’t been able to find any documentation of why or when the additional $1.00/minute [paid out of the Rusk County Ambulance /Emergency Government’s budget] for RCMH nurses to go on ambulance transfers was implemented. Hall will advise RCMH (Mike Shaw) of this in the future.

Hall informed the committee that the Ladysmith EMTs are currently cleaning and maintaining their ambulance office/area of the Fire Hall but do not clean the bathrooms or other areas of the Fire Hall. Discussion by committee members agreed that as long as the Ladysmith EMTs keep maintaining their own ambulance office/area of the Fire Hall there shouldn’t be an increase in their janitorial duties at the Fire Hall. Director Hall is also in
the process of dealing with leases for the ambulance buildings in each of their individual communities/municipalities. Rusk County Property Committee has already approved the leases if the municipalities decide they want to sign a lease with Rusk County. Rusk County currently utilizes five (5) ambulances within the county (one each for the ambulance crews: Bruce, Sheldon, Ladysmith and Hawkins) and one ambulance maintained as the transfer ambulance. The Ambulance Handbook will now be the Personnel Handbook for the ambulance crew and will be separate from the Rusk County Personnel Handbook. It has been forwarded to the Personnel Committee for review.

  Lieffring/Willingham motion to approve upcoming trainings and the monthly report; motion carried.

RUSK COUNTY CORONER PRESENTATION
5. Coroner Ewert was not available to present the May 2012 monthly report.

RUSK COUNTY SHERIFF PRESENTATION
6. Chief Deputy Hahn presented the May 2012 monthly report. Various trainings were attended in May by: Boehmer, Buehler, Flater, Hahn-N, Jandrt, Kaminski and Tuma. Upcoming trainings were requested for: Brunner, Hibbard and Kaminski. Willingham/Schneider motion to approve the requested trainings; motion carried.

  Sheriff Kaminski attended various meetings. The calls for service and inmate housing reports were reviewed along with the Finance payment approvals and overtime reports. Schneider/Lieffring motion to approve the monthly report and bills; motion carried.

  Chief Deputy Hahn distributed the proposed resolution for the Rusk County 911 Dispatch Console Replacement Project and a copy of Motorola's financing proposal that will be forwarded to the Property Committee. The Rusk County Emergency Services Committee members agreed that the previously held tour of the Chippewa County Dispatch Center in Chippewa Falls should have been attended by at least one or two of their own committee members and not just Property/Finance.

JULY 2012 MEETING DATE AND TIME
7. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT
8. Lieffring/Pedersen motion to adjourn at 9:56 a.m.; motion carried.

JOINT MEETING WITH LP&FC REGARDING POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATION OF LPD AND RUSO
9. PRESENT: Rusk County Emergency Services Committee Members – Arian Knops, Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieftrin, Ken Pedersen, David Willingham; Ladysmith Police & Fire Commission Members – Dick Mohr, Ron Moore, Cora Schultz; Others – Chief Deputy Gary Hahn, Police Chief Al Lobermeier, Mayor Dan Gudis, Councilman Mike Hraban, Bob Grotzinger, Luke Klink

  Arian Knops called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Potential cost savings to both departments were discussed regarding personnel and equipment expenditures. It was noted
that the City of Ladysmith would still be required to have a Chief of Police regardless of potential consolidation but at this time it was unknown whether or not providing 24 hour law enforcement services within the city would still be required. Chief Deputy Hahn advised that he has been at recent meetings/trainings where consolidation of law enforcement agencies has been the main topic of interest. The most successful/beneficial consolidations have occurred where larger Sheriff’s Departments have consolidated with and/or absorbed smaller Police Departments/Agencies. In comparing actual staffing of patrol deputies [RUSO] to patrol officers [LPD], the Rusk County Sheriff’s Department has eleven (11) while the Ladysmith Police Department has eight (8). Researching the possibility of consolidation might reveal that a full merger may or may not be beneficial to both departments, and if so a partial merger or merger of certain services might be more feasible. A survey of the City of Ladysmith residents was discussed to try and find out their concerns or if they would even want to explore the possibility of consolidating the two departments.

It was suggested that Sheriff Kaminski and Chief Lobermeier meet with a subcommittee at a future date and time to review the informational surveys/info that Chief Lobermeier received from some of the other consolidated and non-consolidated law enforcement agencies in the State of WI. At that time the subcommittee could also develop its own survey to distribute to Ladysmith residents to see what their thoughts are on consolidating the RUSO and LPD. The subcommittee was selected to be comprised of Sheriff Kaminski, Chief Lobermeier, Arian Knops, Lyle Lieffring, Phil Schneider, Cora Schultz, Ron Moore and one other representative from the LP&FC or City Council. The subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Lieffring/Pedersen motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.; motion carried. Moore/Schultz motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.; motion carried.