

**NORTH FORK AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 16, 2015
PAONIA AMBULANCE STATION**

Board Members Present: Clinton Clock, Don Geddes, Tom Mingen, Bob Sussman, Chris Cox
Absent: Dan Miller, Larry Hughes
Also Present: Kathy Steckel, Karina Nicewicz, Kris Stewart, Kirby Clock, Cindy Owen, Steve Simpson, Jason Cooley

- I. The meeting was called to order by Clinton Clock at 7:00 p.m.
- II. The minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting were approved as written.
- III. Reports.
 - A. President's Report.
 - B. Director's Report. (*attached*)

BOARD REPORT – July 16, 2015 by Kathy Steckel, Executive Director

BOARD WORK

- Met with County Commissioners, will be sending letter requesting a donation, also to Montrose and Gunnison Counties.
- Met with the Assessor to establish real figures on projected income from North Fork properties in regards to mil levy.

HR/STAFF

- Actively seeking a new Physician Adviser.
- Move toward raising the level of care from within our agency, from BLS to ALS:
 - EMT-I Class – approved: Rhonda Dworsky, Deb Leger, Cindy Owen, Tracy VanVleet and Kathy Steckel. Class starts Sept 12, ends Jan 22, with two months clinicals following.
 - Submitted State CREATE grant for 50% of EMT-I class
 - Will be approaching the DCMH Foundation for \$ help on the EMT-I class
 - EMT-I Class ending: Marvin Pemberton and Ashford Perry should be certified this fall and may be running with us.
 - Need to ramp up with ALS drugs and lock boxes for narcotics
- Change of Captain in Paonia from Cindy Owen to Steve Simpson due to Cindy taking the EMT-I class.
- My job description - will email all Board Members

BUDGET AND FINANCE

- Retroactive billing went out two weeks ago.
- Everything set to transition billing to BSI as of Aug. 1st.
- Merchant account for taking Membership payments on the street
- *Dan approved my hiring of Dawnette Simpson for 10 hrs/week for trial 8 weeks as Community Outreach Coordinator*

- DCAD rendezvous Contract renewal and negotiations

COMMUNICATIONS/PROGRAMS

- Cherry Days booth, rec'd several memberships and got info out there.
- North Fork Ambulance Network – survey going out for non-emergency help
- Info Programs – Paonia Rotary done, Board of Realtors and United Methodist Women's group coming up.
- Membership Brochure – rec'd Terms of Agreement from attorney & should have draft soon.
- Short fact/info piece distributed for all Board Member and crew use.

MEETINGS/INTER AGENCY CONTACT

- Emergency Preparedness meeting for mock disaster
- Met with WRETAC coordinator
- Met with Regional Medical Director coordinator Dr. Gross and the Western Colorado EMS Leadership Council

C. Business Office Report.

1. Runs to date through June were distributed.
2. 140-150 retroactive billing authorization requests have been sent out. 20 have responded, giving permission to bill their insurance company.

D. Steering Committee Report.

IV. Old Business.

A. Membership. A draft of the NFAA membership application was presented for review. Also, moved and approved to accept the document to “Authorize Changes to the Membership Program.”

B. Bob Sussman's committee is continuing the process of updating and revising the bylaws and HR policy.

V. New Business.

A. Jason Cooley, sales rep for Demers ambulances, brought informational brochures for the Board's perusal.

B. Kirby Clock, representing DCAD, discussed his board's desire to increase DCAD's fees to the NFAA for ALS rendezvous services. Kathy will begin negotiations with the DCAD board to renew the contract. .

VI. Executive Session.

VII. Return to general meeting.

A. The financial reports for June were approved as written.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

(short info piece)

What if you called the ambulance and no one came?

Most people take emergency ambulance service based in Crawford, Hotchkiss and Paonia for granted, but our own North Fork Ambulance is struggling to maintain services and coverage.

Lack of funding and lack of volunteers threaten the Ambulance's survival.

Facts:

- Our projected deficit this year is \$193,000.
 - Out of 5,600 households in the North Fork valley, only 1,800 are members. If membership increased by 50% to 2,700 households, this would help maintain the existing three stations, with the best response time possible.
 - We need active volunteers! We need 3 more Drivers in each community and 3 more EMTs in each community. Without more volunteers the Ambulance will have to close the Crawford and Paonia stations, greatly slowing the response time to these communities.
- We may need to seek a tax levy to continue the Ambulance. Current projections indicate the formation of a Special District may fund ONE central station in Hotchkiss to cover our 1,500 square mile service area.

How can you help?

- **Become a Member and encourage everyone you know to do so. It's not just about a ride to the hospital: it's about keeping emergency ambulance service in the North Fork valley. Your membership helps guarantee that we will be there we you need us.**
- **Help us recruit the right EMTs and Drivers – those already trained and those willing to become trained.**
- **Join our North Fork Ambulance Network – a group working in non-emergency capacities to maintain the ambulance service in the North Fork valley.**