

# Johnson County Rural Health Care District

## Minutes

July 12, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Johnson County Rural Health Care District was held at the County Planning Office on Monday, July 12, 2021. The meeting began at 4:05 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Connolly. Present were Marilyn Connolly, Marie Miller, Scott McBride, Jim Hicks, Mark Haines, Tucker Ruby, Barry Crago, Commissioner Bill Novotny, Mark Bentley, Michelle Chapman, Francine Russell, Jeff Sawyer, Robert Garrison, Mark Schueler, Marcy Schueler, Jill Wright, Shane Schrader, Dennis Thorson, Shawn Sullivan, Traci Chesterman, Tammy Driskill, Carolyn Fox, Seth Taylor, Ed Huson, Lois Huson, Annastasia Blevins, Lauren Collins, Craig Wetterlund, Dave Harness and Karri White. A quorum was present. The agenda was approved.

VOUCHERS: July vouchers were reviewed. Marie Miller excused herself from signing the Kaycee payroll vouchers because of prior month's payroll concerns. Karri White, RHCD bookkeeper explained she found some irregularities and unusually high expenses in Kaycee's June vouchers and provided the board with a list of items to review. Marilyn Connolly tabled the discussion until the August regular meeting in Kaycee so that Director Crosby Taylor will be in attendance. Mark Haines made a motion to approve the July vouchers. Seconded by Jim Hicks. Scott McBride, Mark Haines, Jim Hicks voted aye. Marie Miller voted nay on the Kaycee payroll vouchers. Motion carried.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Scott McBride moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 14, 2021. Seconded by Marie Miller. Approved by all.

### **II. VIEW AND APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Jim Hicks presented the June Treasurer's Report for review. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Marie Miller and seconded by Mark Haines. Approved by all.

### **III. BUFFALO REPORT:**

#### **1. Ambulance Calls**

Dave Harness reported June had 90 ambulance calls consisting of the following: 73 medical, 17 trauma and 17 transfers; 3 nurse transfers, 4 canceled, 19 patient refusals, 5 standbys, 1 code, 1 DOA, 0 extrication and 1 trauma team activation. 58 in-town calls and 32 out-of-town calls. 59 were Johnson County residents and 31 non-residents.

Dave reported there has been repairs and maintenance completed on the ambulances with MS 106 getting 4 new tires and batteries. He stated the LifePak 12 that was in MS 106 is not working. A portable AED was added to 106. Stryker Medical informed him LifePak12s are no longer serviceable. Communication Technologies reprogrammed the handheld radios.

**IV. KAYCEE REPORT:**

**1. Ambulance Calls**

Michelle reported there were 13 calls in June: 3 trauma, 7 medical, 2 standby, 1 public assist, 3 refusals, 0 canceled, 1 Life Flight, 0 ALS Intercept, 9 total patients.

Michelle reported they will be running a 4-lead on every patient as a standard of care. They are finishing drug and pain management protocols. She reported the turbo is out in MS 264 and is on order. The part will cost approximately \$1,900. Kaycee EMT Craig Walker is moving out of state. Mark Haines suggested the board send him a card thanking him for his years of service.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. 2021/2022 Budget**

The RHCD 2021-2022 budget of \$1,190,565 was approved at the Budget Hearing.

**2. Investment Policy**

Jim Hicks moved to renew the investment policy. Seconded by Marie Miller. Approved by all.

**Call for old business:**

**3. Pain Medications**

Marilyn Connolly suggested the ambulance service investigates pain medications such as nitrous oxide.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Call for new business:**

**1. Buffalo EMS Letter**

Dave Harness asked to read a letter written by him regarding the proposed land purchase. The board denied Dave from reading the letter but agreed to accept the letter into the minutes. Dave explained his concerns regarding the proposed purchase of land at the County Fire location on North Bypass. Jim Hicks stated it was premature to discuss the issue today. Marilyn Connolly said no money has been expended yet on the project and a decision has not been made.

**Chairman Connolly asked for public comment.**

Francine Russell stated with the current economic downturn, the priority of the RHCD should not be a new building. She stated the current ambulance barns are adequate and the board needs to consider the best use of \$500,000 given the dire financial future. Jim Hicks explained the need for a building in case the Board does not contract with Buffalo EMS.

Dennis Thorson voiced that buying property is not a bad concept to plan but where to buy the property and when is his question. He requests the board table the purchase of land at the County Fire location and look further for a better site.

Jill Wright read a statement introducing herself as an Advanced EMT with Buffalo EMS. She stated she loves being an EMT, but her career choice often takes time away from her family. She is concerned by the lack of respect demonstrated by members of the RHCD Board to one another, Buffalo EMS, and the public wanting to address the Board. This disrespect negatively affects the morale of Buffalo EMS employees and is worried the Board does not place patient care as their number one priority. Jill cited the SafeTech Solutions study recognizing the maintenance of a healthy crew is difficult and the acquisition of EMTs to fill openings is down nationally. She stated to try to fix an organization that is not broken does not serve this county and that she will stand behind Dave Harness one hundred percent. She asked the Board not to assume that Buffalo EMTs will work for the RHCD as the Board has continually disregarded the opinion of the EMTs and they feel they have no voice.

Tammy Driskill read a letter to the Board from her husband, John Driskill and her expressing concern regarding the proposed land purchase and building. They explain Buffalo EMS is timely, effective, caring, efficient and very professional and have the best interest of the citizens of Johnson County in mind. With the economic uncertainty it would be financially irresponsible to purchase land and/or a new building especially given the future maintenance costs. They also expressed traffic concerns with the Fire District location and strongly encouraged the Board to reconsider and take the interest of the citizens into consideration. Tammy also provided the Board with a copy of public comments made in agreement with their sentiments.

Robert Garrison suggested a strategic plan be made. He challenged Commissioner Novotny and Barry Crago to consider leasing the County Fire property for \$1 instead of asking the citizens to re-purchase land for \$80,000 the county citizens already own.

Jeff Sawyer stated he is a researcher by profession and encourages the board to plan to utilize scientific research and math rather than magic. He encouraged the Board to read the SafeTech Solutions report and use data when making decisions.


Ed Huson stated he was disappointed the letter by Dave Harness, Buffalo EMS was not allowed to be read. He asked the Board to disseminate plans to the public before making decisions such as purchasing land or building.

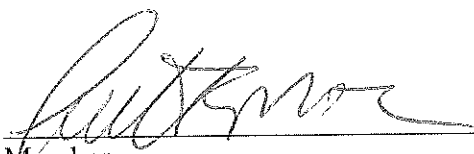
Lois Huson explained the timing of the land purchase is important with respect to budgetary concerns and location is vital. She asked Marilyn Connolly, Jim Hicks, and Mark Haines if they had a personal vendetta against Dave Harness. They stated they did not.

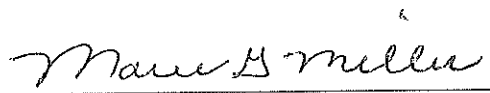
There being no further new business, Scott McBride made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. Seconded by Jim Hicks. Motion carried.

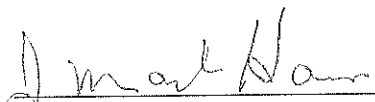
Respectfully submitted by Karri White

**The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Ambulance Barn, Kaycee, Wyoming.**

  
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President

  
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Member

  
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Secretary

  
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Member

  
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Treasurer



July 7, 2021

To Those Served by Buffalo EMS:

Buffalo EMS has serious concerns regarding the proposed purchase of land at the County Fire location on North Bypass. We have repeatedly expressed these at Rural Health Care District Board meetings about this proposal, but this has been overlooked by the majority of the Board. This despite an earlier pledge by the Board to consult with Buffalo EMS on future property purchase, has not been honored.

To be clear, Buffalo EMS is not opposed to the concept of a new designated facility to house ambulances in Buffalo.

However, Buffalo EMS has significant concerns regarding the proposed location at North Bypass without at the very least a feasibility and traffic study. The location is on an extremely heavy traffic entry and exit way within Buffalo and we are concerned that EMTs are likely to encounter significant delays in reaching the ambulance and therefore in reaching patients compared to a more central location. It is irresponsible for the RHCD Board to push this through without due diligence in establishing if this is an appropriate location.

Secondly, the timing of this purchase is, at best, questionable given the significant downturn in revenues. Buffalo EMS has already made significant cuts and savings and is continually requested to do so by RHCD Board and yet this same Board continues to press for an \$80,000 expenditure on land purchase when it is not at a critical time. Investing in land and building detracts from investment in necessary and reliable equipment, preserving existing crew, attracting new personnel and has a negative effect on morale for best possible patient care. Buffalo EMS believes that the actions of some board members will result in a deterioration from the current level of proven service and patient care.

Furthermore, it is hard to interpret this push for a designated barn as anything other than the Board's intent to attract an alternative to Buffalo EMS. This is underscored, for example, by the repeated approaches to other entities to take on the service despite the independent nationally accredited audit by SafeTech Solutions. <https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Johnson-County-WY-FINAL.pdf> This audit commended the current service as a model of good practice for operating EMS in rural America but has been disregarded by RHCD Board.

We request Chair Marilyn Connolly and the rest of the RHCD Board to suspend land purchase until there is an upturn in revenues. Should that be disregarded then to conduct a feasibility study to ascertain if this is the optimum location.

Sincerely,

Dave Harness - Director, Buffalo EMS

08/02/21

JOHNSON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT  
BILLS APPROVED & PAID BY BOARD MEMBERS  
July 2021

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	<u>Jul 21</u>
ALEXANDER SAIN	(46.18)
AT&T MOBILITY	(76.08)
Buffalo Bulletin	(218.50)
BUFFALO EMS, LLC.	(62,500.00)
CRAIG WALKER	(986.77)
CROSBY TAYLOR.	(4,196.29)
DIGETEKs	(426.80)
Emergency Medical Products, Inc.	(268.04)
Employer Services	(195.63)
First Interstate Bank	(24.95)
HARRY D. STRAUB	(46.17)
LPL FINANCIAL	(195.00)
Mark Schueler	(1,000.00)
MARY PROPSON	(184.70)
MICHELLE CHAPMAN	(1,789.17)
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.	(24.39)
NORCO, INC.	(108.90)
QUICK MED CLAIMS	(3,221.18)
RT COMMUNICATIONS	(146.26)
TEDESKO REPAIR	(638.96)
TOWN OF KAYCEE	(88.49)
UNITED STATES TREASURY	(2,811.40)
VISA	(930.69)
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT	(171.18)
WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM	(93.75)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>(80,389.48)</u></b>

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JOHNSON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT  
 Expenses by Vendor Detail  
 July 2021

Date	Num	Account	Paid Amount
ALEXANDER SAIN			
07/01/2021	1550	Payroll	(50.00)
07/01/2021	1550	Payroll Taxes	3.82
Total ALEXANDER SAIN			(46.18)
AT&T MOBILITY			
07/12/2021	1542	Telephones	(76.08)
Total AT&T MOBILITY			(76.08)
Buffalo Bulletin			
07/12/2021	1308	Legal Notices	(218.50)
Total Buffalo Bulletin			(218.50)
BUFFALO EMS, LLC.			
07/12/2021	1304	BUFFALO EMS MONTHLY CONT...	(62,500.00)
Total BUFFALO EMS, LLC.			(62,500.00)
CRAIG WALKER			
07/01/2021	1551	Payroll	(1,075.00)
07/01/2021	1551	Payroll Taxes	88.23
Total CRAIG WALKER			(986.77)
CROSBY TAYLOR.			
07/01/2021		Payroll	(4,875.00)
07/01/2021		Payroll Taxes	506.93
07/01/2021		Health Insurance - Employees	171.78
Total CROSBY TAYLOR.			(4,196.29)
DIGETEKES			
07/12/2021	1305	IT Managed Services	(426.80)
Total DIGETEKES			(426.80)
Emergency Medical Products, Inc.			
07/12/2021	1543	Medical Supplies	(268.04)
Total Emergency Medical Products, Inc.			(268.04)
Employer Services			
07/12/2021	1541	Payroll Taxes	(195.63)
Total Employer Services			(195.63)
First Interstate Bank			
07/30/2021		Auditing / Accounting	(24.95)
Total First Interstate Bank			(24.95)
HARRY D. STRAUB			
07/01/2021	1552	Payroll	(50.00)
07/01/2021	1552	Payroll Taxes	3.83
Total HARRY D. STRAUB			(46.17)
LPL FINANCIAL			

JOHNSON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT  
 Expenses by Vendor Detail  
 July 2021

Date	Num	Account	Paid Amount
07/06/2021	1554	Deferred Compensation	(195.00)
Total LPL FINANCIAL			(195.00)
07/12/2021	1544	Medical Director Contract	(1,000.00)
Total Mark Schueler			(1,000.00)
07/01/2021	1553	Payroll	(200.00)
07/01/2021	1553	Payroll Taxes	15.30
Total MARY PROPSON			(184.70)
07/01/2021		Payroll	(2,050.00)
07/01/2021		Payroll Taxes	260.83
Total MICHELLE CHAPMAN			(1,789.17)
07/12/2021	1545	Utilities	(24.39)
Total MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.			(24.39)
07/12/2021	1555	Oxygen Supplies	(108.90)
Total NORCO, INC.			(108.90)
07/12/2021	1309	Collection Fees	(3,221.18)
Total QUICK MED CLAIMS			(3,221.18)
07/12/2021	1546	Telephones	(146.26)
Total RT COMMUNICATIONS			(146.26)
07/12/2021	1547	Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	(638.96)
Total TEDESKO REPAIR			(638.96)
07/12/2021	1548	Utilities	(88.49)
Total TOWN OF KAYCEE			(88.49)
07/06/2021		Payroll Taxes	(2,811.40)
Total UNITED STATES TREASURY			(2,811.40)
07/12/2021	1306	RHCD Board Expenses	(16.25)
07/12/2021	1556	Medical Supplies	(54.01)
07/12/2021	1556	Meals / Hotel	(4.58)
07/12/2021	1556	Education / Training	(42.00)



1:21 PM  
08/02/21  
Cash Basis

JOHNSON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT  
Expenses by Vendor Detail  
July 2021

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Paid Amount</u>
07/12/2021	1556	Fuel / Mileage	(202.00)
07/12/2021	1556	Legal / Accounting	(530.00)
07/12/2021	1556	Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	(81.85)
Total VISA			(930.69)
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT			
07/12/2021	1549	Payroll Taxes	(171.18)
Total WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT			(171.18)
WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM			
07/12/2021	1307	Deferred Compensation	(93.75)
Total WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM			(93.75)
TOTAL			<u>(80,389.48)</u>