Groton Ambulance Association

Board of Directors Meeting

October 10, 2024

Board members present: Chet Kaniecki (President), Rob McDermott (Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer), Kelsey Gomes (Training Officer), Paula Edwards (Member at Large #1), Martha Brucker (Member at Large #2)  
  
Other members: Ryan Boulanger, Jordan Lombardi, Hannah Warner

1. President Kaniecki called the October Board of Directors meeting to order at 18:00 with all board members present.
2. Motion by Kelsey Gomes and seconded by Paula Edwards to accept minutes from the September Board of Directors meeting as posted. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Officers Report
   1. President
      1. Attended a drill run by EB on the topic of mass shooter emergency response on October 7.
      2. The building amplifier has been replaced by J&S speaker and now dispatches can be properly heard.
   2. Vice President
      1. The SOP and Bylaw committee continues on revising the Employee Handbook.
      2. The Safety committee held a Q4 meeting. Kelsey Fowler has joined the committee
      3. VP McDermott attended an in person workshop held by Worker’s Compensation Trust on the topic of OSHA audits on October 10.
      4. The attic has been cleaned and organized. While cleaning some ems week gifts from 2021 were located and were distributed as they were still in good shape.
      5. A fridge has been placed in the dayroom for extra space and crew use.
      6. A mug warmer had been removed from the office which had been left on and had burned a circular patch in the baseboard.
   3. Secretary/Treasurer
      1. Past meeting minutes are now posted grotonambulance.org on the About page to fulfill the action noted in the September meeting.
      2. See attached submitted Treasurer’s report. Motion by Paula Edwards and seconded by Kelsey Gomes to accept treasurer’s report as read. Motion carried unanimously.
   4. Training
      1. Taylor Sanders and Michael Ibrahim are making good progress in the training program.
      2. Jacob Goes, Melanie Herrans-Polen, and Hannah Warner are working to schedule their EMT tests. Dre Singleton is waiting for EMT certification.
      3. Evie Layne has been signed off as a driver.
      4. Lexi Myers and Chloe Kalahar are making good progress in driver training.
      5. Applicant Kelly Gillis was been hired, two other applications are pending.
      6. An in person training by EB staff from the Training Emergency Planning Division will be scheduled.
   5. Member at Large #1
      1. No report.
   6. Member at Large #2
      1. No report.
   7. Vehicle Officer
      1. G300 will likely return to GAA in 2 or 3 weeks.
4. Old Business
5. An email vote was conducted by the board September 19 to increase the President stipend to $5,500 effective in October in recognition of the efforts of President Kaniecki. Motion carried 4-0-1 (President Kaniecki abstaining).
6. An electronic vote was conducted by the board October 4 to allocate $300 towards the purchase of items to donate towards victims of hurricane Helene. Motion carried unanimously. Donations were organized by Paula Edwards.
7. The accountant is processing the rate application started in September.
8. President Kaniecki submitted the updated Pequot agreement to L&M.
9. Branch trimming in the parking lot was completed.
10. The ambulance committee formed and had one meeting. The committee is planning on attending the EMS Expo at Foxwoods to get information.
11. President Kaniecki said he was contacted to “use or lose” ARPA funding by December 2024 and is asking for assistance with coming up with any suitable projects.
12. New Business
    * 1. Motion by President Kaniecki and seconded by Kelsey Gomes to change the Call Back pay from minimum of 4 hours of pay to the same minimum of 4 hours of pay with a 1.5x rate. VP McDermott noted this was a discussed change at the SOP committee while reviewing documentation. Motion carried unanimously.
      2. VP McDermott noted the SOP committee discussed a minimum number of hours for volunteer status but does not have a change to suggest at this time.
      3. President Kaniecki noted that George Law from L&M is working to roll out a new software solution called Twiage. The system would be installed on GAA Toughbooks and would be an alternative to using the med radio to patch to the hospital. More details to come as it is expected to be installed in a couple months.
      4. President Kaniecki will attend an upcoming drill October 22 at Groton Airport.
      5. President Kaniecki and VP McDermott attended a meeting September 17 with the Groton Town Safety Committee, consultant Bob Holdsworth, and Mystic River Ambulance on the topic of changing Groton Ambulance and Mystic River ambulances to essential services. The next meeting will be held October 29.
      6. Groton Fire Alarm is working to upgrade their dispatch equipment.
      7. Motion by President Kaniecki and seconded by Paula Edwards to enter in to an agreement with American Ground and Snow Removal for $4,550 for winter plowing services. President Kaniecki noted they did the service last year and are doing lawn care this summer with no issues. Motion carried unanimously.
      8. An IRS letter was received due to a Quickbooks error causing 2023 and 2024 taxes to be paid but not filed. The accountant is aware of the problem and is working to see if the ~3,000 penalties can be waived as this was a software issue.
      9. President Kaniecki noted there is a new IRS audit for this year.
13. Good of the Order
    * 1. Thanks to Paula Edwards who collected donations for victims of hurricane Helene. Items were purchased and dropped off October 8.
      2. President Kaniecki congratulated employees who had their hire date anniversaries in October:  
         Evie Layne 1 year
14. Motion by Kelsey Gomes and seconded by Paula Edwards to adjourn at 18:43. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob McDermott

Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer