

Ottolie W. Lundgren Mobile Field Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
MS TEAMS
September 17, 2021
10:00 AM

Revised Draft

Attendees: Michael Mozzer, Sue Walden, Jose Arguelles, Elen Steelman, Jim Paturas, Ralph Hedenberg, Seth Mastrocola, Tim Johnson, Joan Soulsby, Genevieve Boas, Rich Kamin, Barbara Cass, Roderick Winstead

Welcome – Introduction and Review of 3/12/21 Minutes:

M. Mozzer opened the meeting and began with introductions followed by a review of the minutes from the last Board of Directors meeting held on March 12, 2021. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Deployments/Requests for Deployment:

DPH received a request from Middlesex Hospital to deploy one 25-bed set consisting of two (2) J-Shelters, flooring, peripheral shelters, and associated environmental control units/power generation sets to the Durham Fairgrounds to support the 100th annual Durham Fair. The fair will be held during the week of September 23, 2021.

Maintenance/Repairs:

All the prime movers (six stake body trucks) have been serviced by Scranton Motors; this service included addressing electrical issues in the vehicles. The blue GMC pickup had its brake system serviced; the white service truck (Ford) also received service. All the powered trailers have been serviced by HO Penn.

All broken and unserviceable cables and power distribution boxes for the MFH power distribution system(s) have also been repaired or replaced and provisions are being taken to purchase additional ones in the event of emergency. There are enough trailer covers purchased to replace all the torn and unserviceable tarps that cover the trailers and protect the components of the systems in the event they cannot be stored indoors. In addition, there is enough spare tentage to dismantle, repair, and consolidate any unserviceable tentage. A plan is in place to bring four militia staff in on a once-a-month basis to repair the broken tentage with these “spare parts.”

Surplus and Consolidation of MFH Assets:

DPH has been working with its Fiscal Office to surplus obsolete equipment that is part of the MFH, such as latrine trailers, water buffalos, and medical equipment. To date, 24 items have either been sold or recycled.

MFH Memorandum of Agreement

DPH and Military Department are reviewing a draft MOA to formalize their partnership for the storage, maintenance, training and deployment of the MFH. The MOA is expected to be in place by January 2022.

Projected Expenses to Sustain MFH

Sue Walden discussed that DPH has been using federal grant funding to support costs associated with the MFH. This year DPH allocated \$80,000 to the Military Department for their services related to maintenance, training and deployments. In addition DPH incurs monthly charges for storage and maintenance of durable medical goods from other vendors. Next year additional costs will be incurred for maintenance of ventilators procured during the COVID pandemic as well as new charges for storage of equipment staged at Camp Hartell.

Sue asked the MFH Advisory Board if they had suggestions regarding how the state can sustain these costs. Jim Paturas discussed FEMA funding that uses new mitigation criteria in a post COVID environment. Jim will provide DPH with further information about this FEMA funding.

Sue inquired about the state's ability to charge for use of the MFH during non-emergency deployments. Barbara Cass suggested a discussion with Middlesex Hospital to assess whether they would continue to request the MFH if there was a charge associated with its use. The board decided to wait until an actual cost list is available for their review. In the meantime, members were asked to think about the associated costs with deployment of the MFH.

Sue asked Joan Soulsby for the process by which state funding would be requested to support MFH costs. Joan replied that agencies were asked to submit proposed technical adjustments to the FY 2023 budget in early September 2021. Joan noted that while DPH's submission did not include a request related to the MFH, discussions with the agency's budget analysts could be scheduled to discuss the process for proposing a request.

Sue asked if it was possible to make legislative revisions to the MFH bond authorization to allow the funding to be utilized to support costs discussed above. Joan replied that the use of bond funding is typically restricted to capital projects or equipment purchase.

General Hedenberg explained that the Military Department is currently paying for costs associated with storing the MFH inside the Building 45 warehouse on their state budget. Without a federal funding source, the costs fall on their state Military Department budget. He stated that without funding, an option is to store the MFH equipment outside of the Camp Hartell warehouse.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 11:01AM

