



CITY OF TOWER  
**Special City Council Meeting Minutes**  
Tower Civic Center

December 4, 2019

**1. Call or Order**

Orlyn Kringstad called the Tower City Council meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Present (in order of seating): Sheldon Majerle, Rachel Beldo, Orlyn Kringstad

Absent: Steve Abrahamson, Mary Shedd

Staff present: Fire Chief and Ambulance Director Steve Altenburg, Clerk/Treasurer Victoria Ranua, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Terri Joki-Martin

Numerous attendees.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Beldo made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Motion Second by Majerle. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Introduction by Mayor Kringstad**

**5. Presentation by Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis on Ambulance Advanced Life Support**

Chief Lewis made a presentation entitled "Data Driven Decision Making". A handout of the slides is on file with the City Clerk. Notable items within the presentation

- 15% of Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) calls are for Advanced Life Support (ALS)
- Average time en-route and time to on-scene arrival dropped since the inception of the paid on-call staffing model for 9-1-1 calls
- 9-1-1 calls produce \$609 of revenue compared to \$1,468 for hospital transfers
- 47% of TAAS revenue comes from transfers (27% of the calls)
- Higher than average collection rate for TAAS compared to local and national collection rates
- Average mileage for 9-1-1 calls is 45.6, but 245.7 for transfers
- TAAS takes evening Essentia Health hospital transfer because Virginia can not
- Model for care is outdated model, with funding based on geographic location and not need

**6. Break**

## 7. Tribal / Township / City opportunity to speak on presentation

Band, Boise Forte: No comment.

County, St. Louis: Commissioner McDonald states the problems facing St. Louis County ambulance services are not unique. He says recruitment of new staffing is an issue and he would like anyone with ideas to send them to him.

State, Emergency Medical Service Regulatory Board: Data Manager Dave Rogers echoed the staffing and recruitment issues. Stated budgets are based on call volume, but for rural areas hospitals are closing, clinics are closing and putting added pressure on ambulance services.

Breitung Township: Boardmember Chuck Tekautz noted that despite the need for ALS, this is still a financial issue. Appeared that adding this would mean the service would lose more money at a faster rate.

Eagles Nest Township: No comment.

Embarrass Township: Not present

Greenwood Township: Noted they have 22 Emergency Responders.

Vermilion Lake Township: No official representative. Resident noted personal experience of a response time faster than the average in the presentation and fantastic service.

Kugler Township: No comment.

## 8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Beldo.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Ranua  
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by Council on:  
13 January, 2020