



Baraboo District Ambulance Service
120 5th Street • P.O. Box 195
Baraboo, WI 53913
Phone (608) 356-3455 • Fax (608) 356-3446

January 2, 2020

Mr. David Dahlke, President
Baraboo District Ambulance Service Commission
121 5th Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dear President Dahlke,

At the start of each year, I take time to reflect where I have been, as well as the direction in which I am headed—both personally and professionally. This year completes ten years that I have served as the Chief / EMS Director for Baraboo District Ambulance Service.

Over the past ten years, the Service has grown by leaps and bounds to become a full-time career Critical Care Paramedic level service. We have a professional team of EMS providers that work diligently for the District by responding to 9-1-1 calls, performing inter-facility transfers, participating on the Rope Rescue team, and providing the Bariatric specialty service. As well, select members of the Service have participated on the Bike Patrol team, responded to ALS requests in the Intercept vehicle, and served as Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS) staff on the Emergency Response Team (ERT) associated with the Sauk County Sheriff's Office.

The Baraboo EMS Training Center provides continuing education in-house to our EMT's and Paramedics, as well as to the Community with initial education including CPR classes, EMT-Basic, and Advanced EMT courses. The collaboration that the Training Center accomplished with the Baraboo School District—in providing EMT classes at the High school—has been a model that many other entities in Wisconsin are using to implement similar programs in their area(s).

Baraboo EMS is well-known and highly regarded throughout the State of Wisconsin. The State EMS Office has worked with our Service to initiate a number of Pilot programs which have included new skills / procedures, equipment, and medications—that because of positive results, have been implemented across many EMS agencies in Wisconsin. As well, we have received many phone calls from other EMS services—in which the ambulance service is inquiring as to how to implement a specific protocol, or procedure, or practice.

Every item listed above is something that the employees and Commission for Baraboo District Ambulance Service can be proud of.

Looking to the future, I have been considering a number of options in my personal and professional life. As such, an opportunity has presented itself in which I have been asked to be a Partner in a Consulting Firm. Therefore, I am announcing my Retirement from the Department. I would like my last official day in the office to be June 30, 2020. As has been past practice with all employees that have retired or resigned, I would then utilize my earned vacation and sick-time until it has been fully expended.

That timeline would give me the opportunity to complete several projects including, but not limited to:

1. Relicense Baraboo District Ambulance Service for the next Biennium through Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).
2. Attend EMS Lobby Day in Madison – in which we are meeting with legislators to advocate increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rates for EMS.
3. Receive and place into service the new Bariatric ambulance that was funded by FEMA, through the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG).
4. Complete the needed paperwork to finalize the AFG requirements.
5. Apply and submit for the next round of AFG funding, for another ambulance.
6. Finalize the details for implementing the ET3 program (Baraboo EMS is still being considered for that pilot program.)
7. Begin preparations to implement the Community Paramedic program, once the Administrative Rules are in place.

I would be willing to negotiate the date of my last day in the office—either to shorten it, or extend it farther out—in order to facilitate a smooth transition for the Service. Please advise how you wish for me to proceed with the announcement of my Retirement.

Sincerely,

Dana Sechler, Chief / EMS Director
Baraboo District Ambulance Service