

**ZOOM SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH EAST REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

1. Meeting 968 362 6954 was called to order at 1130 by Director Rouhib

2. Roll Call:

The following members were present: Rouhib, Coppler, Kanigowski, Monroe, Woodcox, and Bartram

Others Present: Leese and Bisby

3. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Monroe, seconded by Woodcox.

4. Grant Discussion Action Item

- A. Approval to Accept CARES Act Grant
- B. Woodcox requested clarification on the Hazard Pay memo, specifically paragraph 4 which states that 9 separate employee outages due to COVID
 - i. Bartram explained that only one employee tested positive but the other nine employees were symptomatic and/or had families that were ill due to COVID or related symptoms

5. Grant Concerns

- A. SERESA Liability
 - i. SERESA absorbs \$1,968 in FICA liability – money cannot be taken out of grant funds
 - 1. Can be taken out of budget now or as an adjustment at the end of the fiscal year
 - ii. \$26,000 in grant money, \$1,000 each employee including administration
 - iii. Each employee will be taxed on their own portion
- B. Woodcox further requested information regarding the two employees who are on the SCS pension system and concerns of the legacy costs of the \$1,000 payment
 - i. Bartram explained that the SERESA Attorney created a letter of understanding in which both employees hazard pay will not be factored into their final average compensation (FAC) for pension purposes and the employer will not have to make a pension contribution because of said bonus. POAM approved the letter and has signed it. Both letters are signed.
- C. Coppler stated concerns about the grant process and lasting ramifications
- D. Coppler further stated his concern that a grant was applied for and it included management. Coppler stated he understood that the “rank and file” should get

the payment, but was concerned that management had applied for themselves.

- i. Bartram explained that she contacted the State of Michigan for clarification on Director's receiving funds. Bartram said that the SOM advised that if the Director's or other supervisors were working in the dispatch centers they were requesting compensation. Each center was different depending on circumstances.
- ii. Bartram said that she requested the hazard pay because she and Deputy Director Leese were reporting to work and hadn't stayed home the whole time.
- iii. Bartram offered to forego her \$1,000 payment but felt strongly that her supervisors should be receiving the money as they were at the dispatch center, on the floor, throughout the entire time period.
- iv. Director Rouhib stated that every agency is also different and many agencies distributed the hazard pay to all staff.

Motion made by Kanigowski to approve the \$26,000 CARES Grant and distribute the funds to each employee including the administration, seconded by Rouhib.

AYE vote – Monroe, Kanigowski, Rouhib

NAY votes – Coppler and Woodcox

MOTION CARRIED – 3-2

6. Public Comment: None

7. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn made by Monroe and supported by Kanigowski

MEETING ADJOURNED

END OF REPORT