



EMS Administrative Board

JUNE 26, 2020

- 1. Open the meeting**
- 2. Approval of agenda – Motioned and approved.**
- 3. Introduction of attendees:**

Board Members in Attendance:

Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners online
Norm Childress, County Commissioners online	Julie Schilling, Mayors Association online
Gary Hanna, Fire Chiefs	Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs
Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair	Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council
Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs	

Board Members Absent:

Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	Tom Sevigny, Fire Commissioners
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Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs	Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners
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Alternate Board Members Absent:

Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners

Department of Emergency Medical Services

Tony Miller, ES Director	Diane Koch, Office Specialist
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Department of Emergency Medical Services Absent

Vacant, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator

Guest(s)

Kevin Frazier, Fire Chief, FD#5

- 4. Open Public Input.**
None
- 5. Communication**
Fire Commissioners have appointed Sam Glanzer as one of the primary representatives and Jim Borst will be his alternate.
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. The following nature codes were presented to the board from the Fire Chiefs Association as the codes used to determine credit for an agency:
 - EMR Red
 - EMR Lift Assist
 - EMR Yellow
 - EMR Alarm Med
 - EMR Medic
 - Fire Rescue



- Fire Emergency Water Rescue
- MVA Injury
- MVA Unknown

Union Gap and Broadway are contracted with the City of Yakima Fire Department and currently they are given credit for the call. Then those departments use the funds to pay the agency per the contract.

Private ambulances do not get credit for calls, as they are not part of the levy. The exception to the rule is Sunnyside Fire Department, which runs a fire based ambulance. They only receive credit for those runs that are within their boundaries (city limits). The residents of Sunnyside are charged for the calls, but it is at a lesser rate, than the charges for the calls outside of their boundaries.

- b. Fire District #5 Dispatch and Suncomm have different ways that the runs numbers are determined. This past year the overall run numbers were very close. Fire District #5 Dispatch goes back and QAs all of the runs by error code and to verify that the calls are credited to the correct agency. Suncomm leaves that up to the individual departments. The issue is it takes Lower Valley Dispatch approximately 40 hours to QA 2500 calls and Upper Valley Dispatch (Suncomm) has 15,000 calls.

For example, Joel went through the large packet from SunComm and found 60 calls that were not from his department but belonged to departments in the upper valley. For West Valley, if a call happens in the DNR area, they are charged from the dispatch fee for DNR to be dispatched for a fire, but West Valley is not responding, but if someone breaks a leg up there, then West Valley does respond.

- Discussion on if there is a better source of information.
- Discussion on getting better reports, including an address for the runs from Suncomm.
- Discussion continued on what will be the best way to run the numbers to ensure that each agency is credited correctly. It is the understanding of district 5, that Suncomm is not flagging calls where the code maybe changed, whereas District 5 is flagging the calls.

The process discussed for resolving disputes regarding run numbers:

- i. First of March, run numbers are requested from dispatch centers and sent to the fire chiefs for verification.
 - ii. All agencies must submit their run numbers to the EMS office by March 31st. This may be done using ERS data or other sources.
 - iii. During the month of April chief/agencies will work with dispatch to clarify disputes regarding the number of runs.
 - iv. During the May EMS Administrative Board meeting the run numbers will be finalized and any unresolved disputes will be settled.
- c. Research levy formula distribution
- Property data changes daily. Changing the property values in the formula does not make huge changes. The biggest change was \$3,000.
 - Pulling population made huge differences. Updated population is only done for cities, not fire districts/counties. There a few \$100,000 swings.
 - If you pull call numbers again you get big swings.

Assessed values on tribal lands is listed at all \$0. The population is counted on the tribal lands.

A lot of the issues that were happening was because calls were being double counted in some instances, which causes the value of each call to go down.



During May of 2018 it was discussed and voted on that each department would receive no less than 80% of assessed value, no more than 100% of assessed value. Changes could not be made due to the way it was presented.

It is up to this group to make changes that are sound solutions.

- Discussion on freezing agencies that are over 100%, but never totally agreed upon. Nathan suggest we take 80% of assessed values to every agency and then the other 20% goes to the good of the whole.
- Take the 11.5% to run the EMS office off the top.
- Give each agency 80% of assessed value (or maybe it is 75%). Then take remaining amount and use that for the value of the calls. That way whoever goes on the most calls gets the most money. This eliminates the population.

Discussion on how the EMS levy funds are distributed to each department by the formula. This causes some districts/departments to not receive at least 80% of the funds generated in their area, and some districts/departments to get over 100% of the funds generated in their area.

Group would like to Dave and Nathan to model the numbers and send those out to the chiefs for further discussion.

The out of district funds was started to help any agency that responds outside of their district. There has never been a lot of calls submitted for reimbursement.

- d. If levy permanent then it would reset every year, to 0.25 cents. Remember that if property levels decrease then we would lose money.
Les Riel would like us to also think about if the levy should be raised, be fore 6 years, 10 years or permanent.
This discussion will be held over until we are closer to running the levy, so that we can determine how the economy is doing.
- e. Assessed values – when should the numbers be pulled? Discussion followed on when the assessed values are pulled for taxes by the Assessor’s Office. If was decided that this will be determined and that will be the assessed value that is plugged into the formula.
- f. Population Data Numbers – this was discussed above. Only the cities and the county as a whole are updated yearly. Using the census data may be archaic but at this time it is still the best option.
- g. The original EMS Levy work was done to identify the deficiencies and needs and the 1/3 x 3 formula (the formula was gotten from King County). The resolution did not contain the formula.

The formula can be changed by the Administrative Board. It must be fair, equitable and agreed upon by everyone.

7. Good of the Order

Discussion from the last meeting regarding the skewed numbers and that either Yakima Fire Department or Union Gap Fire Department ended up with more money than they should have. During that meeting the county commissioner in attendance said he was going to fix it. It has not yet been fixed. The range of funds that should have been distributed to the other agencies ranged between \$500 and \$6,000. Would like a date of when this discrepancy will be fixed.



Discussion followed on how this can be most appropriately be rectified, as 623 calls were counted twice, which lowered the value for each call, thus reducing the money paid to each department. The county will need the EMS Administrative Board to send a request to fix mistake.

One proposal is to correct this the following year, so that the department(s) that received the excess funds will not get the funds the following year, and the funds will be distributed to the other agencies that were shorted.

Tony proposed that we could fix it out of the EMS office budget, as we have been short a full time and a part time employee for 6 months. This will ensure that no agency's budget is affected during this time.

A solution will be recommended at the August meeting.

8. **Next Meeting: 09:00 West Valley, St #51, Classrooms on August 12, 2020**
09:00 Location to be determined, on November 11, 2020
9. **Adjourned.** A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. **Motion passed.**