



# Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board

2403 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Union Gap, WA 98903 • (509) 574-2145 • FAX (509) 574-2159



## EMS Administrative Board

March 16, 2022

### 1. Open the meeting

2. **Approval of Agenda** Jim Lange moved to approve the agenda, Les Riel seconded. Motion passed.

### 3. Introduction of attendees:

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair
Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Amanda McKinney, County Commissioner
Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners
Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs	

#### Board Members Absent:

Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Open, Mayors Association
Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs	Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council

#### Alternate Board Members in Attendance (Nathan Craig was voting at this meeting):

Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs	Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners
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#### Alternate Board Members Absent:

Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs
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#### Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:

Tony Miller, ES Director	Diane Koch, Office Specialist
Brian Ireton, EMS Operations Manager/Training Coordinator	

### Guest(s)

Dale Hille, Fire Chief
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### 4. Special Meeting Business

#### a. Upcoming EMS Levy

Brief discussion on the current county resolution and that it will need to be changed. Commissioner McKinney requested that all changes needed be sent to her in an email.

Nathan Craig provided a document that showed "justifications" for increasing the levy. Dave Lynde reported he had some from other agencies as well.

Chief Craig, then reported that the Fire Chiefs reviewed their past meetings and discovered that there was never a motion made and approved to increase the levy to 35 cents and to make it permanent. In addition, once the levy numbers were ran, several chiefs voiced concerns regarding the increase, particularly due to the current economy. The chiefs felt that we might be better served staying at 25 cents and having the sunset as 6 years.

Commissioner Riel stated that during the last board meeting, these points had been discussed and that a motion was made, seconded, and approved for the levy to be 35 cents and permanent. He also noted that the fire commissioners, hire the fire chiefs and they should trust their judgement on what is needed.



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Discussion followed on:

- What the Chiefs voted on versus verbal agreements.
- The need is there, but there is concern that asking for more money this year would be a bad idea.
- Even during the last recession property values did not drop that much in Yakima County.
- Tele-working is bringing in more people due to the cost of living on the west side.
- Holding off running the levy for a year due to the current economy and rate of inflation.
- People understand EMS and most have either used or know someone who has used the service.
- Any changes to the current levy of 25 cents and 10 years, requires a super majority, regardless of the change.
- Running the levy in August for 35 cents and if it fails, running it in November for 25 cents.
- If we run the levy at 35 cents and it fails and then we come back and run it at 25 cents, what type of impression does that make with the voting public?
- Having the executive boards for the Fire Chief and Fire Commissioners meet and vote on the levy.
- The loss of value having a sunset for the levy due to the 101% cap. Having the levy permanent avoids the cap entirely.
- The costs associated with running the levy.

Nathan Craig made a motion the levy on the November ballot at 25 cents and permanent. Seconded by Les Riel. Motion passed.

It was recommended that the Chair reach out to Charles Ross, Auditor and see if we could get estimates on the cost of running the levy **and** what the deadlines are for getting into the voters' pamphlet and ballot.

The following people have been contacted and wish to help with the levy:

John Stouffer  
Randy Raschko  
Kathy Kramer  
Vicki Baker (she is checking to make sure she can help)

The following suggestions were made for others that may help:

Dave Ettl KIT Radio  
Lance Tormey KIT Radio  
Bruce Smith, Yakima Valley Business Times  
Johnathon Smith Yakima County Development Association – ask him if he can help find board members willing to help

We have not heard from any of the firefighter associations yet.

- ✓ Joel Byam said that Sunnyside has said they will have someone.
- ✓ Nathan Craig said that FD#12 Association will help put up signs.
- ✓ Yakima Fire Departments association president is Jay Shahan.

Date for first levy meeting April 13th 4 pm, Selah Civic Center Email will be sent out for confirmation of date, time, and place.

### 5. For the Good of the Order.

Commissioner Riel has asked that we all keep Chief Hille in our prayers as he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.



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- 6. Next Meeting:** May 11, 2022, at 09:00, EMS Office Classrooms.
- 7. Adjournment:** Les Riel made a motion to adjourn, Amanda McKinney seconded by. Motion passed.