



Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board

2403 S. 18th Street, Suite C, Union Gap, WA 98903 • (509) 574-2145 • FAX (509) 574-2159



EMS Administrative Board

September 22, 2021

1. Open the meeting

2. **Approval of Agenda Les Riel** moved to approve the agenda as submitted, Julie Schilling seconded. Motion passed.

3. Introduction of attendees:

Board Members in Attendance:

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| Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners | Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council |
| Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs | Les Riel, Fire Commissioners |
| Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs | Julie Schilling, Mayors Association |
| Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair | |

Board Members Absent:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Ron Anderson, County Commissioners | Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director |
| Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners | Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs |

Alternate Board Members in Attendance (both voting at this meeting):

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| Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners |
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Alternate Board Members Absent:

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| Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs | Tim Smith, Fire Chiefs |
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Department of Emergency Medical Services in Attendance:

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

Guest(s)

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| None |
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4. New Business

a. Budget Review and Approval

County switched to new systems in July 2020 and the budget reports have very small print. The County is working on fixing these reports. The line items have changed since the switch to Workday, most notably under expenses, so we have had to move funds to different line items. We now have funds for prescription items. Another change was that Ninth Brain expenses were moved to "Maintenance & Repairs" as it was decided that this was a "maintenance" fee. This is also where costs for photocopies are charged.

➤ Revenues:

- ✓ Property tax for 2021 was estimated to be \$508,475 and for 2022 year are estimated to be \$516,560. This is an increase of \$8,085
- ✓ The State Trauma Grant estimate has dropped slightly, as we are unsure of what will happen with the grant.



➤ **Expenses:**

- ✓ Line items 1-8 – Emergency Management is for Tony's wages and benefits, which DEMS pays 30% and Emergency Management pays 70%.
- ✓ Open position was taken away by the County Commissioner for now.
- ✓ The levy will be run next year. We will be paying to put the levy on the ballot in the general election next November. We are planning community events, to help get the facts regarding the levy, such as "Stop the Bleed" and "Public CPR" classes. We will go to the locations rather than having everyone gather in one spot.
- ✓ OTEP is changing beginning next year, and there will be 4 workshops, rather than 3, which will increase the instructor's hours and travel.
- ✓ Equipment training supplies \$10,500, as we need to replace our OB manikins (many are 10 years old) and some of the HPCPR manikins need to be refurbished and the ones that were purchased first need to be replaced.
- ✓ Consultants contracted has subcategories:
 - Doctors & Experts
 - Medical Services (Out of District Responses)
- ✓ Operating Rentals includes ER&R (Equipment Rental & Replacement), for the vehicles driven. The cost per mile is 80 cents, as it covers maintenance and replacement of the vehicle. The minimum amount paid is \$7,000 per year.
- ✓ Other Services includes Training, which is the fund we pay Alex Langbell out of for the videos we produce.
- ✓ Miscellaneous - \$11,000 has been set aside for a pilot program for mental health response vehicle, that will respond with an EMT and a Crisis Responder (Comprehensive Mental Health provider)
- ✓ Discussion on where we are at with Pulse Point (system for Public CPR-Needed Activations for Community Responders). Per Dave Lynde, he sent information to Commissioner Anderson and has not heard anything back yet. He will check in with Commissioners Anderson before the November meeting. The hope is that the county commissioners will be able to find the funds to pay for the set-up fee. Then the yearly fee will be paid out of the EMS levy funds.
- ✓ Technology \$5,000 has been set aside. Since EMT courses are moving more towards having lecture nights look like an online college course (for example the Rural EMT program we are piloting for State), we will be purchasing technology to help achieve that goal, so classes can be done in real time with students online.

Les Riel made a motion to recommend to the county commissioners the budget as submitted, seconded by Tammy Pettis. Motion carried.

5. Strategic Planning

a. Levy discussion and planning

Report from the last meetings held by the Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Commissioners Association. Both groups have voted on going to 35 cents per \$1000 of assessed value and making the levy permanent.

Nathan Craig sent a report to Dave Lynde, that he had invited Bruce Smith, who has helped with all of the previous levies to the meeting. Mr. Smith was unable to make it, but his recommendation was that if we keep the levy the same as it is currently, 25 cents per \$1000 of assessed value and 10



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years, there should be no problem renewing the levy. Increasing the amount or making the levy permanent or doing both will make it much harder to pass the levy. Mr. Smith recommends against doing both.

Discussion followed:

- ✓ Any changes to levy will need a super majority to pass.
- ✓ If the levy is made permanent, then it resets every year, and we will not lose value.
- ✓ Tony provided estimates between 25 cents and 35 cents per \$1000 for comparison.
- ✓ If both changes are made then the campaign will need to be much bigger, larger, and broader.
- ✓ How will we sell this to the public? How we will show need for an increase?

Concerns about doing both:

- ✓ If there is a decrease in response and then we try to increase the levy, citizens will ask "what am I paying for?"
- ✓ How will we sell this to the public?

Discussion followed on vaccine and what will happen, as this could be of concern depending on how many providers are lost:

- ✓ Across the board possibly losing 30 to 40% of volunteers and/or paid
- ✓ Hospitals across the State are saying that if you are not vaccinated you cannot come in and requiring employers (ambulance services) to release employee's vaccination status, which is a HIPPA violation.
- ✓ Selah School is a DSHS facility and is requiring an affidavit from Selah FD that all personnel responding are fully vaccinated.
- ✓ Options to use testing, rather than vaccination and the costs associated with the "Rapid Test" and purchasing equipment. There are some tests that do not need a machine – contact Dave Lynde David.lynde@gmr.net for information.

Plans for the levy election discussion:

- ✓ On ballot next November, will need everything ready for the voters' pamphlet by August.
- ✓ A booth is already reserved for next year at the fair.
- ✓ Storing campaign signs? Do we need signs in Spanish?
- ✓ Campaign fund – need donations
- ✓ Support needed from the firefighter's associations, both volunteer and professional

Les Riel made a motion for the levy to be 35 cents per \$1000 of assessed value and to be permanent. Tammy Pettis seconded. Votes: 5 for and 2 against. Motion passed.

We will need to draft a document to send to the county commissioners. We will want the campaign committee to be up and running by February and to start campaigning in summer of 2022.

Diane will assist the Dave Lynde, chair to get this put on the County Commissioner agenda. Before that is done, Dave will send out information to each commissioner separately and ask for a reply by October 30th, so that it can be discussed at our next meeting in November.

It was recommended that as many people as possible attend the County Commissioner meeting by Zoom when the levy is on the agenda.

Reminder that once the levy is approved by the county commissioners, then this board and the office staff will be done. Therefore, we need to reach out and start finding members for the committee as soon as possible. Recommendations for members:



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Julie Schilling
Bruce Smith
Hospital providers

6. For the Good of the Order

7. Next Meeting - 09:00 at the EMS office on November 10, 2021

8. Jim Lange made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Les riel. Motion approved.