



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

February 9, 2022

1. Open the meeting

2. Approval of Agenda Nathan Craig moved to approve the agenda as amended, Les Riel seconded. Motion passed.

3. Introduction of attendees:

Board Members in Attendance:

Jim Borst, Fire Commissioners	Aaron Markham, Fire Chiefs
Joel Byam, Fire Chiefs	Amanda McKinney, County Commissioner
Sam Glanzer, Fire Commissioners	Tammy Pettis, Yakima EMS Council
Dave Lynde, Ambulance, Chair	Les Riel, Fire Commissioners

Board Members Absent:

Kevin Hodges, MD, Medical Program Director	Open, Mayors Association
Jim Lange, Fire Chiefs	

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

Nathan Craig, Fire Chiefs

Alternate Board Members Absent:

Dan Boyle, Fire Commissioners	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)

NONE

4. Open Public Input - none

5. Communication – An invoice was received from Naches Fire Department for \$247.76. There was no patient information included, but it did state that AMR transported. Naches Fire Department has been asked numerous times to obtain patient information, so we know whether we can bill for the patient or not. Legally DEMS cannot ask AMR, as that would be a violation of HIPPA.

After discussion, and to set precedent, it was decided to develop criteria and once approved by the board to send another letter out states that patient information will have to be included, in cases where patient contact was made and especially if a patient was transported in order for the amount to be consider as reimbursable.

NOTE: Original resolution attached for information and last letter sent regarding timely submission.

6. Approval of minutes: Les Riel, made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting, Jim Brost seconded by. Motion approved.



7. Reports from committees/agencies

Tony Miller, ES Director reported:

- a. The 2021 Rural EMT course that the State asked us to pilot has finished. This ended up being mainly Yakima County residents, with only one student from Klickitat County. Six have taken NREMT exam, 3 of those passed. Two have not yet registered to take the NREMT exam.

Discussion on the successful pass rate of the NREMT exam. The first time pass rate fluctuates, it is usually around 86% successful the first time, with an overall pass rate of around 96%. The national average first time pass rate is 70%.

This course was done differently, with it being a mainly online program, with people who not ready for that. The students were here on Saturdays for practical skills and did very well on that side. But struggled with the cognitive portion.

- b. The Winter 2022 EMT started with 15 students and is now at 14. The students are doing well, and it is on track to be as good as last winter's EMT course.

8. Old business – Dave Lynde reported:

- a. Pulse Point Update – moved to New Business under "Reserves"
- b. Upcoming EMS Levy – The board requested input from the Yakima County Fire Chiefs Association and the Yakima County Fire Commissioners Association, as to what should be the official stance and recommendation for the levy rate and length. Per the representatives to the board both the Yakima County Fire Chiefs and the Yakima County Fire Commissioners voted to support changing the levy to: Thirty-five (0.35) cents per \$1000 and making it permanent.

- Research regarding EMS levies throughout Washington State was passed out, so that the group would know what other counties have done.
- If the levy is changed in any way, either an increase or the length, then we will need a super majority to pass, 60%. If we leave it the same at 25 cents and 10 years, it is a simple majority. The last levy passed with 79% yes.
- Per Nathan Craig, Bruce Smith, who has supported the levy in the past, felt that it would be a hard sell to ask for an increase and to make the levy permanent at the same time. He suggested to do one or the other. Will have to good reason for why.

Discussion on what is needed to sell a rate increase and permanent levy to citizens. The Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners both meet next week and will asked for more input from their agencies about why an increase is needed (show it in black and red), and what the additional funds will be spent on, and **will submit the information by March 15th**.

Other selling points mentioned: increase in costs of PPE since COVID, call volume has risen, labor costs have increased, more calls are being ran for mental health crisis patients since the police no longer respond to these, enhancing public safety.

- Dave Lynde and Tony Miller met with Commissioner Anderson after the last meeting for his input. Commissioner McKinney stated this has not been discussed with full board yet.
- We will have a booth at the fair this year for distributing facts about the levy.
- Will need to speak to the newspaper, Bruce Smith, be on radio and TV. Will need to have hard numbers from each district to show why the increase is needed.
- It was noted that every elected county official will be on the ballot. Due to redistricting Commissioner Anderson and Linde will be running for a new 2 year term and Commissioner McKinney will be running for a new 4 year term.



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Discussion moved to appointing a levy committee and who was on the committee in 2011. Members of the EMS Levy Committee included: Yakima FD Local, Randy Raschko Union President of YFD Local, Bruce Smith, Jerry Foy, Glead FD, Selah FD, Pat Mason, Joel Byam, Josh Roe SSFD Local, Woody Woodcock, Darrell Monroe FD#1, Greg Stewart Central Washington State Fair, Bob Hall, Lance Tormey, and John Stouffer.

- Tony will contact those on previous committee
- Fire Chiefs will contact local county firefighter associations
- Nate will contact Bruce Smith
- Discussion on asking John Stouffer to be the Chair of the levy committee
- Les Riel – we also need public members. Kathy Kramer – State Fair Park

We will have a special meeting on Wednesday, March 16th, 9 am at West Valley FD, Station #51.

Another meeting date will be set for the first meeting of Levy Committee.

There is a FACT sheet, along with details from the last levy committee, which will be distributed for the next meeting.

- c. By-laws – first meeting of each year, we sign off that we understand our roles and responsibilities and provide this information to the Yakima County Board of Commissioners. This needs to be reflected in our February minutes.

The By-laws were emailed to the members for review and the roles and responsibilities under Article III, Section were read to the group by the chair.

Article III

Management of Board

Section 1

The Board shall serve as an administrative committee to provide direction related to:

1. Strategies, mission, goals, and objectives of the YCDEMS
2. Policies governing the activities of the office related to EMS education programs and delivery methods
3. Strategic planning
4. Manage the Board itself to ensure it is productive and effective including yearly evaluations of the Board's performance
5. Participate in the hiring and assure the performance of the Director.
6. Budget recommendation: including revenue from the EMS levy, grant writing and expense projections
7. Provide the Yakima County Board of Commissioners with an ongoing review of the YCDEMS

This review shall include:

1. Budget
2. Strategic planning
3. EMS educational programs
4. Yearly performance evaluation of the Director.
5. Yearly evaluations of the Board's Performance

The chair asked if everyone understood the roles as set forth in the by-laws. These will be signed off and forwarded to the Yakima County Board of Commissioners, along with a copy of the minutes, reflecting the discussion and understanding.



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- d. Special District for EMS – the Chair and ES Director met with Commissioner Anderson, and he brought up the conversation of EMS becoming a Special District similar to the Office of Emergency Management. This was reviewed and discussed with Craig Warner, Financial Services, who stated that is not a viable option based on how everything works with the levy.

Joel Byam made a motion to not pursue changing the EMS office into a Special District, Nathan Craig seconded. Motion passed.

9. New Business

- a. Officer Elections
Nathan Craig made a motion to continue with our current chair, Dave Lynde and vice chair, Les Riel. Seconded by Jim Brost. Motion passed.
- b. County Reserves for EMS
Review of the current EMS reserves. In 2014, the then Operations Board wanted DEMS to establish a line item to hold 6 months of operating expenses in reserves in case levy failed and to establish a line item to run the levy at approximately \$45,000.

In the old financial system, we did not get accurate counts. Since moving to the new system, it has been determined that between our Restricted Fund Balance \$445,332 and Unrestricted Fund Balance \$76,420 we have a total of \$521,727 in reserves. What we believed we had in Reserves was \$354,000 for those 3 categories.

How this all came about was that Nile Fire Department went to the County Commissioners and requested assistance to purchase new AEDs for approximately \$20,000. The Commissioners asked Finance Director Craig Warner to look into this and see where there might be funds to assist Nile Fire Department.

We have close to \$180,000 available to spend and still keep reserves where they should be.

Items discussed to fund:

- Nile FD – AEDs \$23,500
- SunComm 911 – Switching our Emergency Medical Dispatching from King County to Pro QA, which is a much better system. The switch was proposed Erica McNamara, the new director. The full cost is approximately \$215,000 to implement and then \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year to maintain. There is less chance of error, and it decreases liability. The MPD must approve the change. This is only at the proposal stage.
There will need to be further discussion with District #5 to ensure it will work for them also.
- Naches FD ATV with Stokes for going off road on calls to rescue patients.
- Pulse Point App – cost approximately \$20,000 and \$10,000 per year afterwards. This would be good PR for levy. Would have to interconnect with specific program that SunComm 911 will be using. Currently there is no new CAD system that will do everything.

The Board agreed that what needs to happen is that we inform the districts, that we have X amount of dollars available to help fund projects and to submit application. Then the Board will make the final decision.

- c. Nile EMT course – Joel Byam reported that during the last Fire Chiefs Association meeting, Chief Clark reported that he had some volunteers taking a fully online course out of Idaho. The reason for this was that the current Yakima County course does not work for the volunteers due to work schedules. Joel stated that there are a lot of agencies that have volunteers in the same position due



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to work schedules. The Idaho program offers everything online including skills and will make instructors available on the students schedule regardless of day/time.

Brian Ireton reviewed the differences between the Idaho and Washington requirements and that these students will still be required to attend additional classes taught by DEMS in order to be eligible for Washington State Certification. The State is currently watching these programs.

In addition, he pointed out that due to the requests from the fire chiefs in Yakima County, our program has gone mostly online and been shortened. It used to be expected that the EMT students through our program would be independent and field ready when they were done. That is no longer the case, and the new EMTs will need to be assigned to a field training officer before they are ready to operate independently as EMTs.

The costs for sending the students to the Idaho program were paid for by splitting it between the volunteer fire association and the fire commissioners. During this discussion the fire chiefs felt that DEMS should help offset this cost as if these students would have come to the DEMS course, there would have been no charge to the students or agency, as the levy covers the cost of the EMT course.

Nathan Craig made a motion that we allow up to \$400 per student that provides a Washington EMT certification. Les Riel seconded, but requested that a policy be developed with criteria, and application process and an annual limit set.

Nathan Craig revised his earlier motion to: Tony Miller, ES Director will draft a policy, for the Administrative Board to review, on how we can reimburse outside EMT courses for those students who are not able to attend the DEMS course. Seconded by Les Riel. Motioned passed.

- d. Sousley Sound and Communications – we are currently waiting for a quote, as we will be upgrading the classroom. Rather than have cameras setting on stands around the room, the cameras will be embedded, there will be better sound and Zoom and the lighting will be changed to LED, as it is better for the cameras. Emergency Medical Services will be paying for the upgrade. The change for the LED lighting will be paid by the County Commissioners.

10. For the Good of the Order.

Nathan Craig stated that the 911 Board meets tomorrow and the Emergency Medical Dispatch issue will be on the agenda. It was brought to the fire chiefs a month ago that SunComm will no longer provide EMD for anyone unless they are within the city limits of Yakima. If that is the case, then we need to know what Fire District #5 wants for an EMD, not just what Yakima FD wants for an EMD.

Further discussion followed on the funding of the 911 system, the contract in place between the County and SunComm 911.

- 11.** Next regularly scheduled meeting is 09:00 at the EMS office on May 11, 2022.
Special meeting 09:00 at West Valley FD, St #51 on March 16, 2022.

- 12.** Joel Byam made a motion to adjourn, Jim Brost seconded by. Motion passed.