



Emergency Medical Services Technical Advisory Board

800 Chestnut Street
Online/Virtual Meeting
September 6, 2023

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Minutes

Board Members:

David Pethick, BFD Asst. Fire Chief,
City of Bellingham
Marvin Wayne, WCEMS Medical
Program Director
Mike Hilley, WCEMS Administrator
Hank Maleng, Whatcom County Fire
Chiefs Assoc.

Jerry DeBruin, WCEMS&TC
Dan McDermott, BFD Division Chief of
Prospect Dispatch Center
Scott Ryckman, BFD MSO
Susie Johnson, PeaceHealth Medical
Rep.

Board Members not Present:

Rob Stevenson, Paramedic Training
School

Ben Boyko, WCFD7 Assistant Fire Chief

Also Present:

Steve Cohen, WCEMS
Rosalee Cowan, WCEMS

Diana Clinch, WCEMS
Ben Russell, WCFD7

1. Welcome & Confirmation of the July 13, 2023 Minutes

McDermott moved approval of the July 13, 2023 minutes, DeBruin seconded.
The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. TAB Workgroup Report

Pethick/DeBruin/Boyko

Pethick presented the draft document which describes the recommendation committee created at a previous TAB meeting that has reviewed the 24 recommendations listed in the WCEMS Levy Plan. The review included classifications of prioritization for the different recommendations in order for the EMS system to have a plan to follow. Pethick advised the TAB when going through these recommendations to keep in mind that the “nice to have” programs

Ryckman briefed the group on the status of the Paramedic School and current Paramedic students. The 2023 class is finishing up and some final things are getting completed, including the contracts, for the 2024 Paramedic School. There will be a base Paramedic School budget that is included in the ALS contract that will ideally help with the contracting process for the rest of Paramedic School costs.

7. Medic Unit Housing Hilley

Hilley briefed the group on the topic of medic unit housing, now that the Levy passed for NWFR he will be meeting with Chief VanDerVeen to continue the conversation about expanding Station 12 to house a medic unit. Pethick provided the group with an approximate idea of the budget that BFD would need. Maleng asked if the system's data analysts could begin reviewing data that is being accumulated by the implementation of Medic 75 to see how things are changing in the region and how the future implementation of a sixth medic unit is being analyzed, Hilley and Russell supported these actions.

8. Good of the Order

DeBruin asked Hilley about the status of the EMS end-fund balance. Hilley informed the group that the balance is below the 70% reserve threshold, but that has been foreseen by the Finance Committee for some time. They discussed voter confidence in the Levy and how the rate collection could be raised to the voter-approved amount of 29.5 for every cent collected. Hilley will work with finance and the EOB to learn more about that potential decision. Hilley informed the group that if that decision was made, that it would be a process and it would be political.

DeBruin briefed the group on the status of vacuum mattresses in Whatcom County. Steve Cohen has written and submitted a grant for vacuum mattresses and Hilley will reach out to the Chuckanut Foundation for potential funding. Additionally, the mid-biennium budget adjustments will raise the available funding amount for the vacuum mattresses. Hilley and Ryckman supported the need for a tracking system for the mattresses purchased by the County.