



**Emergency Medical Services
Technical Advisory Board**
800 Chestnut Street
Online/Virtual Meeting
May 1, 2024
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.*
Captain Rob Stevenson, Paramedic
Training Coordinator

Jerry DeBruin, *WCEMS&TC*
Dan McDermott, *BFD Division Chief of
Prospect Dispatch Center*
Scott Ryckman, *BFD MSO*
Susie Johnson, *PeaceHealth Medical
Rep.*
Ben Boyko, *Asst. Fire Chief, Dist. #7*

Board Members Not Present:

Ben Boyko, Asst. Fire Chief, Dist. #7

1. Welcome & Confirmation of the March 6, 2024 Minutes
After a few corrections on meeting minutes, Pethick motioned to approve meeting minutes and DeBruin seconded no objections, minutes approved unanimously.
2. Finance/Budget Update Hilley
Hilley updated the group on our finances for 2024. Next finance committee will be in June.
3. PFAS/FF Turnout Gear Pethick
Pethick spoke about some funding options for new gear for the paramedics. The coatings on the bunker gear they have now has been found to have chemicals that are associated with cancer issues, and other health effects related to behavioral development, your endocrine system, and reproductive system. Pethick said that Bellingham is moving forward with purchasing some alternative response gear that is pfas free and also some policy changes.

Pethick asked if the Tab group believes that the Levy should support this purchase financially to the tune of about \$110,000.00, a one-time purchase for the paramedics a pfas free option for all 60 paramedics for both ALS service providers. Pethick stated that Fire District 7 has interest in securing some funding as well but are not in the same position Bellingham is in, Bellingham has actively secured funding for this. Pethick is looking for a motion of support from the TAB for this. Hilley read the RCW regarding EMS Levy funds to the group. The group then talked about different scenarios on how to get this in the budget either in 2024 or 2025 and what that might look like. DeBruin makes a motion asking the TAB to move this into the EOB for approval of a project that would outfit the paramedics with this new response gear for EMS use, McDermott seconds no objections, approved unanimously for the tab to move this project forward to the EOB for recommendation.

4. Executive Order/Opioid Emergency Hilley
Hilley spoke about the Executive Order and shared the Executive Order with the group. Hilley invited the group to the MAC monthly meetings. DeBruin asked if any EMS Levy funds would be used under the emergency order. Hilley stated that no Levy funds would be expended under this emergency order.

5. BLS Contract Update Maleng
Maleng said there is some information from the Chiefs Association that is being pushed forward to the County Commissioners Association for some of their eyes to look at it to make sure they are going down the right path. And then also that their legal side was reaching out to the County's legal side for some more information. Maleng said that it is currently in a halt as legal is out of town and probably nothing would happen until next Monday.

6. BLS Allocation Update Hilley/Maleng
 - Finance Committee Work
 - Fire Chief RepsHilley updated the group regarding the BLS Allocation. Maleng updated the group and let them know that the fire chiefs have named the 3 chiefs for the committee work and the 3 of them know who they are and will be ready when the time permits.

7. Paramedic School Report Ryckman
Ryckman current class headed to Seattle to Children's and Harborview for clinicals. Full class with some outside agencies again this year. Long term Ryckman would like to talk about expansion as the classes are growing and maybe looking at getting a full-time instructor to aid the captain going into next year's class.
8. Introduction: TAB representation Discussion Hilley
Mike introduced a conversation about the representation make-up of the TAB. Hilley proposed to the group that they eliminate the position of the Paramedic school lead instructor of being a member of the TAB and transfer that position to the MSO of FD#7 so they would then have an administrative representative and they have an operational representative that would now kind of equalize that. DeBruin makes a motion to add that number for an operational piece for the MSO from FD#7 to become a part of the board, Pethick seconds the motion. McDermott makes a motion to table this discussion till the next TAB meeting, DeBruin seconds the motion, no objections, approved unanimously. Hilley we have a motion to table this discussion till the next TAB meeting with the idea that they will meet in between to further define this conversation. with the idea that they will meet in between to further define this conversation.
9. Committee Reports
No committee reports.
10. Good of the Order
Hilley spoke about the new EMS office and hoping to be in there by August.