

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1**

October 28, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

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## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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A regular meeting of the Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services District No. 1 (KCEMSD1) Board of Directors was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 3:00 pm via virtual attendance on the Zoom Meeting app. Chuck Virts was the presiding officer. A quorum was present including, Director JJ McCray, Director Heiko Stopsack, Director Tony Gilmer, and Director Leslie Hiebert. All Directors noted they were able to hear and be heard over Zoom conferencing.

Also present: William Harryman, EMS Chief; Erika Cooper, Finance Administrator; Jeff King, Klickitat County Director of Emergency Management & EMS Ex-Officio, Nate Herbeck, Katharina Larson, and Suzanne Gilmer, EMS Services.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Virts called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Director McCray made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Stopsack. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Virts continued by requesting disclosure from the Directors of any conflict of interest with items on the agenda. All Directors present noted that they had no conflict of interest.

### **BUSINESS FROM AUDIENCE**

None noted.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None noted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Gilmer moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2021, for this month. Also, to approve; September Accounts Payable in the amount of \$164,104.54, Electronic Transfers in the amount of \$151,977.08, Bad Debt in the amount of \$15,793.54, and Charity Care in the amount of \$1,855.20. The motion was seconded by Director Hiebert. The motion carried unanimously.

KCEMSD1  
October 28, 2021  
Regular Meeting

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **Financial Report**

Erika reviewed the September 2021 financials. Revenue was \$63k this month. Medical supplies over budget due to expiring medication. Other expenses were over budget due to ambulance association dues.

### **Chief of EMS Operations Report**

COVID: It is having an impact on both our 911 calls and our transfers. There were two COVID related transfers last month and we've had eight so far this month. There has been an increase in COVID cases in the Goldendale area.

We follow the Governor's mandate. All full-time employees either have shown vaccination proof or have asked for accommodation. The part timers that haven't shown proof will be removed from all future shifts.

STAFFING: Chief Harryman has an offer out to a paramedic he will get back to him tomorrow. He will not take long to train. Chief Harryman's idea is to put him in the open EMT spot and train him at the same time. Director Hiebert suggested looking into the Emergency Licensing Proclamation to get people licensed in Washington quickly, it has shown to be successful. Director Virts agreed that it would be a great idea to investigate. Chief Harryman has another paramedic looking for part time work. Next big project is to complete employee reviews.

WEMISIS: Established communication between dispatch and our server waiting on connection with Image Trend to test.

WEBSITE: Nate is working on website, he had it up and running yesterday. Unfortunately, while updating information, he encountered an error, site is down now. Nate had to redo everything. We were able to keep our domain name. Idea is to have all our information on the site including agendas, meeting dates, and minutes.

### **Vehicle Report**

The vehicle report was provided. All up and running. There have been some minor issues in process of getting tires.

### **Data/Run Report**

The run report was provided. We are staying busy and IFT's are on the rise. Nate stated nothing stood out in stats this month. They are maintaining and staying busy. Chief Harryman stated Goldendale is most challenging, when they go on a Portland transfer it impacts all the stations.

KCEMSD1  
October 28, 2021  
Regular Meeting

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **KCIFA Report** – No meetings since July per Director King. He stated their next meeting is next month. They combined their meetings because of the holidays.
- **Union Local Report** – Nate stated the final contract is in the works. Nothing else to report.
- **Strategic Planning Update** – No update currently.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **12-hour stipend** – Chief Harryman stated we used it this month. Chief Harryman is thinking of using during the day only in Goldendale. Our level zeros in that area are caused by Portland transfers. On call is currently taking transfers since Portland transfers affect all stations. It should limit our level zeros. Director Virts inquired if all our interfacility transfers were during the day. Chief Harryman stated most are but we get a few at night.
- **Review employment contracts** – The contracts are still in process. Director Virts agreed to change Chief Harryman's contract to nearest station being 30 minutes away. If no one has objection, Director Virts will change, everyone agreed. Erika is working on adding PERS to our existing DRS plan. As soon as that is finalized, Director Virts will send them to Snure to review. COLA and raises aren't finalized yet as the union negotiations aren't completed yet.
- **2022 Budget** – Table until next meeting.
- **MOU FD #10** – Minutes from last meeting stated we needed to change the wording on the MOU. Chief Hunsaker stated the MOU stated we provided mutual aid but he didn't believe it was mutual aid. Director Gilmer said he doesn't know if anything really needs to be done since it was signed and there isn't any mutual aid involved. Director Gilmer doesn't understand the need for the document. Director King stated there was much talk around mutual aid when it first began and it isn't mutual aid that is why they changed it to say memorandum of understanding. Director King stated it was vetted thoroughly and approved by legal. He said he'd be surprised if anything needed to be changed. The benefit goes the other direction as the district trying to serve Roosevelt. He stated that EMS hasn't gone to District #10 more than once or twice for lack of them having their primary ambulance out of Benton or Yakima County. The initial discussion started about Fire District #10 not being in the district and charging them if they called for help and that was decided not to be the neighborly thing to do. With Fire District #9 not having any EMS and very limited volunteer Fire Services, having FD #10 get there faster is the benefit to the citizens and the district. Director King stated there is no expiration date on the MOU.

KCEMSD1

October 28, 2021

Regular Meeting

- **Resolution 2021-04 2022 Meeting Dates** – Erika stated she just moved the dates to the 2022 third Thursdays. Chief Harryman stated he would like to discuss the location of the meetings since the location previously has been at the Dallesport Community Center or online. It was decided to table until next meeting, need to change location and discuss in person meetings (next topic).
- **Returning to in person meetings with Zoom option** – Director Virts stated he's ok with it but doesn't like all the stipulations. Director Hiebert stated the hospital does both and if you aren't in the room, you miss some of the meeting by not being in person. Director Virts leans towards the in person but he struggles with the COVID stipulations. Chief Harryman stated the Snure seminar stated you still must have a Zoom option. Erika stated that way the public can still attend and our employees can still attend who normally wouldn't be able to because they could be called out any time. Director McCray prefers Zoom meetings she doesn't like to leave her home. Director Virts stated we can continue to keep doing what we are doing over the next few months and see what happens. Director Stopsack agreed. Chief Harryman will price out what it would cost to go to in person meetings. Nate stated it is much easier for the employees to Zoom into meetings both when on shift and from home. Nate stated there will be a transition period no matter what we do. We will revisit in the discussion in December for January meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Grant Committee (Gilmer)**

No update currently.

### **Bond Committee (Gilmer)**

No update currently.

### **Good of the Order**

Director Virts, Chief Harryman and Erika attended the Snure seminar. The House bill 1310 change in law enforcements approach to unruly customers. Suicide attempts, law enforcement is looking at those as more of a stand down maybe even not even go to those calls. They will be doing more evaluating before they go in, the idea is to lessen the confrontational atmosphere. In the past we've always looked at law enforcement as our backup and waited around for them to get there. The discussion was that they may not get there when our EMS personnel is there and they may go into a situation that is not stable. From the attorney's point of view, don't go in. The Fire Chiefs that were at the conference said no, it's our job to help people. If you run into situation where law enforcement won't go it falls to mental health. Director Virts will send information on crisis management to everyone.

KCEMSD1

October 28, 2021

Regular Meeting

Chief Harryman stated that is how we are handling it now. Law enforcement will tell us we're not going to take them in so we'll call dispatch to call mental health to get that rolling. If the ER physician says to go ahead and do it, the responsibility falls to them. If we must go hands on, we end up sedating the patient. Mental health is there to follow up. Chief Harryman stated we need to get crisis management training going because we could get into a situation we are not prepared for.

Director Stopsack said they are bringing mental health professionals on in his area but the unique suicidal patients are still being treated. The cops are helping them. It's the grey area patients that they stay away from.

Director King questioned if EMS has spoken with law enforcement because there are multiple issues at play. The legislation has restrictions on law enforcement going hands on which includes handcuffing. The mental health side of things, the way that it is being interpreted with local law enforcement is that if the person did not request help for themselves or breaking the law then law enforcement is not allowed to act. If the person breaks the law, they can go hands on. Our Sheriff doesn't back down from doing anything. If the person isn't breaking the law or isn't a danger to themselves or others law enforcement cannot do anything. Chief Harryman stated he spoke with the Undersheriff and he said nothing was going to change on how they are currently doing things. Director King stated that it's up to each individual officer to act. They can be held personally legally liable for their actions, it's a very difficult time to wear a badge.

Director Gilmer stated he shared Morgan Grant's information with Chief Harryman. He stated that Morgan Grant had critical training offers that could be helpful. He will resend them to Chief Harryman.

Chief Harryman stated that there was an inflation in ambulances of 5%, there hasn't been an increase in that amount since 1990. There are possibilities of decreasing that. Director Hiebert stated only time will tell.

Director Gilmer stated the City of Goldendale is complimentary of the interaction the ambulance staff has with dispatch, we have strong partnerships. Director Gilmer thanked Director King. Director King thanked us for all our employees.

Due to the vaccine mandate, Director King is at a critical staffing shortage. He stated he is short three communications officers and one casual position. His employees are working lots of overtime. If the mandate sticks and he get to the point where he must let some people go it could lead to an extreme shortage to where we only have one person at a time at dispatch for several hours. We will be forced to make certain procedural changes in the way we dispatch. The priority will become taking calls and the initial dispatch of calls then the follow up of dispatch will be very basic. One person alone cannot handle significant calls at one time.

KCEMSD1  
October 28, 2021  
Regular Meeting

**Executive Session**

The board went into Executive Session from 3:58pm-4:18 pm to discuss union negotiations.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The next regular meeting will be October 28, 2021, at 3:00 pm Via Zoom conference call.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, Director Hiebert moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:38 pm. Director Gilmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DocuSigned by:  
*Charles Virts*  
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Chair of the Board of Directors

DocuSigned by:  
*Heiko Stopsack*  
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Secretary of the Board of Directors