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Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
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Emergency Medical Services
Executive Oversight Board
March 13, 2019
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Executive Louws, *Chair*

Barry Buchanan, *Whatcom County Council*

Scott Korthuis, *Small Cities Mayor*

Rick Kowsky, *Citizen at Large (Cascade Ambulance)*

David Lynch, MD, *Medical Community Representative*

Kelli Linville, *Bellingham Mayor*

Terry Bornemann, *Bellingham City Council*

RobRoy Graham, *Fire Commissioners*

Hall Walker, *Citizen Budget/Finance*

=not present

Also Present:

Mike Hilley, *WC EMS Manager*

Asst. Chief Hewitt, *COB/BFD*

Jerry DeBruin, *WCFD 14*

Tawni Helms, *Whatcom County Administration*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Louws welcomed everyone and roundtable introductions took place. The meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes to the agenda were requested.

MINUTES APPROVED:

After Board review of the October 17, 2018 meeting minutes, Chairman Louws asked if there were any modifications, hearing none, the minutes were accepted into the record as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET

M. Hilley gave a brief overview of the EMS Fund expressing appreciation for the work that went into the EMS Levy Plan. The Plan prepared realistic projections that have helped to build the budget framework for the years following the levy vote. AS the EMS Administration component continues to evolve, the budget is being developed to meet the needs of the system.

A proposed budget amendment was presented for recommendation of the Board. The amendment addresses the increases in both revenue and expenditures. The 2019 budget increases result from a \$317k What-Comm increase, EMS Administration increases resulting from residual costs from the office relocation that occurred at the end of 2018. Revenue increases are projected to be \$1M from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) revenue for Medicaid reimbursement. Mayor Korthuis inquired about the reliability of the GEMT funding. There was shared agreement that the funding was secure for all of the agencies that applied for and sought reimbursement which is based on high

numbers of Medicaid users. In addition, \$80k (received in 2018) from the **Accountable Communities in Health (ACH)** performance “grant” will support the Community Paramedic Program.

MAYOR KORTHIUS MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE 2019 BUDGET ADMENDMENT #1 IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED ENDING FUND BALANCE.

Commissioner Graham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TAB REPORT

M. Hilley reported that the Image Trend data input is now providing tremendous information that can be used for predictive modeling. They are currently in a process of the downloading information form the last five years to begin analyzing the data.

Graphs were presented for a visual representation of the information provided through ImageTrend. One graphic reflected a narcotic map that showed the locations Narcon dosages had been delivered by medical practitioners. The information expands beyond paramedic treatments and helps provide broader pictures of the Narcon dosage picture....200 of the dosages reflected on the map were not dispensed by paramedics.

Community Paramedic/GRACE has been launched. Staff has been hired and another paramedic is coming on through BFD. There has been tremendous positive feedback from the community and stakeholders.

Paramedic Training continues to proceed on schedule and is going strong. The current class is doing well and the community conversation is taking place with the school. There is great interest in sustaining the program and making it available regionally. This is all part of the 2nd year training planning that is taking place. Ultimately, the training program will transition under BTC in its 3rd year. There is also an effort underway to pursue a Work Force Development grant which would help to secure tuition and/or program funding.

M. Hilley also reported on the development of the TAB Subcommittees. The two priority committees at this point are:

- EMS Levy Planning Group
- Medical Program Director/Doctor Group

Questions were raised regarding the EMS Levy schedule for the 5th Medic Unit. The Plan projected 2020 as the year, funding has been used for Paramedic Training. The need for a 5th Medic Unit needs to be understood using data to make a data driven decision.

Two unplanned cost drivers have been incorporated into the budget. 1. Paramedic training and 2. WHAT-COMM increases. Even with these unplanned costs, we’ve been good stewards of the levy. Questions were raised if we would be able to get the data needed to make these decisions. The answer is yes. ImageTrend will provide all of the information we are looking for. It was suggested that the 5th Medic Unit Analysis (pg. 46 of the Levy Plan) be re-evaluated to determine some of the data points. With the use of heat maps reflecting high utilization and density areas a refined analysis can be prepared for decision making.

Additional, there are collaborative opportunities through transportation to shorten transports such as the St. Joes' Medical Facility that will be coming to Lynden.

OTHER

Commissioner Graham spoke of the strain BLS has put on the system asking if there was a way to support their high number of calls. There may be some solutions that the TAB can consider being mindful of the taxation differentials and practical realities. Maybe the future means looking at an interlocal that more seamlessly addresses BLS and ALS.

Chairman Louws expressed his full faith and confidence in the Board members to establish the state of the system and to use the newly available data to make important data driven decisions that will sustain the system.

QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD: None

FINAL COMMENTS: With no other items to report the meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

NEXT QUARTERLY MTG: **Wednesday, June 12, 2019 2:00 – 3:00**
 Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514

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