

**Thurston County Medic One  
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting  
Emergency Operations Center/ECC  
November 16, 2016**

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**PRESENT:** Frank Kirkbride, Paul Perz, Margaret McPhee, Eileen Swarthout, John Ricks, Greg Wright, Rena Merithew, Stan Moon

**ABSENT:** Bud Blake, Jeannine Roe, Larry Fontanilla

**EXCUSED:** Tom Fell, Russ Hendrickson, Michael Steadman, Roger McMaster

**GUESTS:** Terry Ware, Tony Kuzma, Alex Christiansen, John Wood, Steve Brooks, Scott LaVielte, Pete Suver

**STAFF:** Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Chair McPhee called the regular meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council (EMSC) to order at 3:32 PM. Roll was recorded by staff.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC** – (Moon/Ricks) move to approve

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. EMS COUNCIL – September 21, 2016, October 3, 2016 & October 19, 2016 – **MSC** (Kirkbride/Merithew) move to approve minutes from the past three meetings, the motion carried unanimously. Stan Moon asked about the September 21<sup>st</sup> minutes, under ‘Old Business’, page 2. There is the following statement: “The council asked if we could combine the reports that were presented so there would be one report showing expense, revenue, beginning/ending fund balances, and the reserve account”, and the council was never presented with this. Sandra Bush stated that Kurt Hardin made a decision at the budget committee meeting held prior to the October meeting that this report would not be provided, however this is not in the minutes.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – October 6, 2016 (Information Only), November 3, 2016 minutes were not available.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** Greg Wright reported: Operations Committee would like to be a part of the discussion for Levy Restoration. McPhee explained the rush involved with the Levy Restoration discussions and apologized to the Operations Committee for not including them, and she hopes they will be involved with future discussions.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Hardin reported: WREMS is moving forward with their strategic plan. Greg Wright will present MIN/MAX under New Business.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Hardin asked the council what they would like to see in the staff report (suggestions can be emailed to Sandra). The general consensus is that people find the old information left in the report to be cumbersome. The suggestion is to bullet items on the report and highlight items needing action. When the staff report is sent out with the packet, members can review it at that time, and if there are questions they can be asked at the council meeting.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Levy Restoration: Hardin has a working session with the current County Commissioners on December 14<sup>th</sup> (not a public session for approval). This session is informational only, providing the commissioners with an update on the levy restoration. If there is a levy restoration in 2017, it would be acted on by the new commissioners.

Hardin emailed the EMSC last week asking for questions and/or the need for additional information from the council members regarding the restoration. Hardin received responses from two individuals (this was handed out), and it was noted that the responses mostly evolve around policy. The objective at today’s meeting is to have discussion and any voting would take place at the December meeting.

Pete Suver presented data based on the responses received. The first slide illustrated the cash flow, month to month. This represents cash on hand less outstanding liabilities and shows the \$2.4 mil margin that Medic One must maintain to cover two months operating expenses. Expenses will be cut before Medic One will tap into the \$2.4 mil. The second slide was a graph showing how the expenditures over the past years, and over the

next several years far exceed revenue. This slide only includes new construction prior to 2016. Kirkbride calculated an estimate over the past 10 years and as a result he believes we can use a conservative estimate of \$350 mil for 2017.

Hardin stated in order to have a valid vote for the Medic One levy, we need a 40% turn-out of the previous general election and a 60% yes vote of the previous general 40%. Hardin went back to 2004 and found that the year following a presidential election year, it was difficult to meet the criteria of 40%. Hardin asked the Council to consider the following; do we want to run a levy in the 2017 general election and run the risk of the August primary not getting the 40% turn-out, or extend the levy out to February of 2018? If we run the levy in February of 2018 we will not begin to collect monies until April/May of 2019. This would put the ending fund balance down to approx., 1.5 months of operating expenses. Kirkbride said to check with the school districts to see if they are going out for a levy in February of 2018 because if they are, it would help. Hardin received an email later in the meeting from a County prosecuting attorney and was told if the turn-out is 40% then there must be a 60% "yes" vote, if the turn-out is less than 40% then the "yes" vote could be a different percentage.

Hardin asked the Council members to go back to their constituents and ask which fire districts are going to have ballot measures in 2017 or 2018, which cities are going to have ballot measures in 2017 or 2018, and Medic One staff will go to the County and ask them which ballot measures they will have in 2017 & 2018. Please email this information to Sandra by December 12<sup>th</sup> and a chart will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Moon expressed concern about actual spending vs. budget. Are the numbers in the levy restoration presentation realistic revenue and expenditure numbers (1280 & 1290)? The graph Hardin presents at the December meeting will have assumptions of 1% increase per RCW and \$350 mil/year of new construction. Kirkbride asked Hardin to include 1280 & 1290.

Following the initial discussion, Hardin wanted to address the responses that came in. The first response addressed was from Kirkbride, asking what measures can be taken to operate Medic One without a levy restoration, which could include 1) Reduction of response time (fewer medic units); 2) Eliminating payments for BLS responses; 3) Lowering the contractor's reimbursement percentage for paramedic pay; 4) Change how the system is managed. Hardin recommended establishing a task force to prioritize these options. Staff will recommend actionable items for the December agenda (i.e. one of them would be to "establish a task force to prioritize Medic One resources"), and a vote would take place at the December meeting.

The second response from Kirkbride was "What non-tax revenue opportunities are available to Medic One and/or the contractors?" which could include 1) Fee for agency medical service; 2) Fee for transporting patients; 3) Adding additional services such as community medicine responses paid by the hospitals or others under the ACA. Hardin has concern about putting anything on the Affordable Care Act that would generate revenue. Hardin asked if this would be another discussion for a prioritization task force and Kirkbride agrees. McPhee would like to see these options discussed at the Operations Committee.

Hardin asked if it would be prudent to discuss the levy restoration rate, i.e. we need \$.46 to maintain current operations at Medic One and this would leave \$.04 the fire districts could ask for individually, and pull that money in on a levy, or, does it make sense to go for the full \$.50 and push the \$.04 out to the fire districts to increase BLS support. This would avoid the fire districts of needing to run separate ballot initiatives. This needs to be voted on at the December EMSC meeting. Also, at what point do you go to the voters? When the reserve fund has an ending fund balance of 6 months operating expenses?

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. WREMS MIN/MAX: Wright presented the MIN/MAX numbers to the Council for approval. Operations Committee discussed the numbers and are asking for approval to change the State Approved Minimum Number from 5 to 3, and leave the State Approved Maximum Number at 6. (Moon/Swarthout) move to approve the numbers as presented and the motion carried unanimously. EMSC will need to send a letter to WREMS signifying this approval.
- B. Brown/Fell Scholarship: Monti Sorem has applied for the Brown/Fell Scholarship. (Kirkbride/Merithew) move to approve the \$1,000 scholarship and this carried unanimously.
- C. Medic One Fund Balance: This was covered in Old Business, in Levy Restoration discussion.
- D. MPD Contractual Review: Dr. Larry Fontanilla is employed with a group of Physicians at Providence St. Peter Hospital. Medic One is proposing that Dr. Fontanilla pull some of his shifts here at Medic One, rather than have his duties as MPD be an additional job. Dr. Fontanilla is agreeable to this and is taking it to his employer. The additional cost would be what Dr. Fontanilla is being paid per shift at Providence. Staff will verify the cost.

- E. Discontinue use of Tablets: The expected outcome on this item should be discussion, not approve/reject. The general consensus is to discontinue using the tablets.

**VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Chief LaVielle thanked the committee for approving Monti Sorem’s Brown/Fell Scholarship.

**IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – 1) Paul Perz met with Liberty Ryder on how to set up a campaign, setting up ground work for the Campaign Committee, and he has asked Liberty if she could be an advisor to the committee. Kirkbride has concern about seeking advice from Liberty because her experience is part of a citizen’s group, promoting a yes vote, and the Medic One Campaign Committee is about being able to put out factual information. Hardin said the committee will consult with the prosecutor’s office before the levy goes out. 2) Hardin will present the Levy Restoration to the Tumwater Council next Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3) Hardin reported there will be a virtual CPR demonstration at Lacey Fire, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 11:00am – 3:00pm, on every hour. 4) Wright reported there continues to be concern about BLS transport availability. This has been moved to a standing committee within the operations committee.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.