

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Virtual – Go to Meeting
May 20, 2020**

PRESENT: Cindy Hambly, Frank Kirkbride, John Ricks, Tom Oliva, Stan Moon, Harry Miller, Renata Rollins, Sheila Fay, Paul Perz, Gary Edwards, JW Foster, Brian VanCamp, Lenny Greenstein, Margaret McPhee

ABSENT: Larry Fontanilla

EXCUSED:

GUESTS: Chris Clem, Steve Brooks

STAFF: Kurt Hardin, Sandra Bush, Ben Miller-Todd, Anna Lee Drewry

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Chair McPhee called the regular meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council (EMSC) to order at 3:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC – (Greenstein/Kirkbride) move to approve and this carried.

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – February 19, 2020 (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to approve, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – March 5, 2020 & May 7, 2020 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) There was discussion about Fire Chief staffing at the Emergency Coordination Center as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response. There is an emergency support function, consisting of EMS and Fire. Three Fire Chiefs staffed this function for approx., one and a half months to the operations section, and has recently been terminated. An HPU (High Probability Unit) plan was developed as a result of this function. An HPU is a creation of a unit consisting of 2 EMTs which would supplement an EMS response primarily for a COVID related call. The HPU has not been exercised, however this could be used if there is a second wave of the pandemic. 2) Officer elections took place, and Chief VanCamp will remain as Ops Chair, and Chief Gregory will fill the seat of Vice-Chair. 3) Kurt Hardin provided a presentation on the budget impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 4) There was recognition of EMS week.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Paul Perz reported: There have been virtual meetings with discussions on PPE, and agreements with different hospitals.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is included in the packet. Kurt highlighted on the following: 1) The spring EMT course was suspended and ultimately cancelled due to the requirements of stay home, stay healthy. A fall EMT course is being planned. 2) OTEP training was suspended and staff is working on resuming this. A presentation will be made at the next Ops meeting regarding on-line training. 3) CPR classes have been cancelled thru June 15th.
- D. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Frank Kirkbride reported: Presentations to the stake holders have been postponed until they can be done in person.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID-19 – In early March and April there was overarching training to providers, as well as PPE training that came out in April. Screening by TCOMM evolved very rapidly from the middle of March thru the middle of April, however what was decided on April 14th is still in effect and it has worked very well; everyone is being screened up front. There has been a wide range of call volume drops in the BLS units, anywhere from 25 – 40%. The lowest point for most agencies was late March, early April. ALS fell off it's normal average of about 15%, but ALS has remained much more stable than BLS, and has slowly been creeping back up.
- B. Nominations Committee Report – Hambly reported: Nominations were received for Chair and Vice-Chair. Margaret McPhee was nominated for Chair and Stan Moon was nominated for Vice-Chair, and they are both willing to serve in these positions. No other nominations were received.
- C. EMSC Officer Election – (Hambly/Fay) move to approve Margaret McPhee as Chair and Stan Moon as Vice-Chair,

and this carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Medic One Fund Balance – Kurt presented a Medic One Fund Balance report as of January 1, 2020 and a report as of May 4, 2020, showing the COVID-19 impacts. As a result of COVID-19, a 5% property tax reduction is expected in 2020 = \$600,000. A 2.5% property tax reduction is expected in 2021 = \$310,000. Further discussion on this is included in Budget Reduction and Levy Ballot Process agenda items.
- B. Budget Reduction – County departments received a directive from the Board of County Commissioners to propose options for a 15% budget reduction for the period of July 1 – December 31, 2020. Kurt is proposing two different phases, which was submitted to the County on May 19th. The BoCC will meet on Friday, May 21st to review department proposals.

Phase I: Administrative Program cut of \$46,635. This includes leaving the Office Assistant position vacant thru June which will save Medic One \$35,135. The remaining \$11,500 cut will come from office supplies, minor equipment, professional services, and travel. **BLS Program** cut of \$50,600. This includes not filling the Business Application Technician II (BAT II) position, which was approved by the BoCC in the current 2019/2020 budget. **ALS Program** cut of \$132,600. This includes not filling the BAT II position and extra help (for a total of \$65,600). This also includes a reduction in travel for staff (\$5,000), supplies, uniforms, fuel and minor equipment (\$62,000). ER&R Program cut of \$70,000, which is an administrative replacement vehicle.

Phase II: Administrative Program cut of \$51,000. Professional services designed to assist with the expansion of EMT initial training for the 12 fire agencies in Thurston County. **ALS Program** cut of \$308,500. Paramedic CME, supplies, uniform replacement, pharmaceuticals, repair of medical equipment, maintenance of medical equipment, and training (\$233,500). Extra Help (\$15,000), ALS contracted services provided in the ALS Fund Policy (\$60,000). **BLS Program** cut of \$615,579. Extra Help (\$25,000); CPR Program (\$100,000); equipment replacement/maintenance for fire agencies, patient charting software support, and limit the MPD oversight for the EMS personnel (\$90,500); reduce BLS funding support to fire agencies (\$400,000).

- C. Levy Ballot Process – Kurt provided information on levy ballot options. November 2020 ballot would cost Medic One approx., \$65,000, and a November 2021 ballot would cost approx., \$87,800. Kurt asked the council to consider these options; renew permanent levy 50% plus 1, or have a 6-year levy, 60% plus 1. Millage would be 50 cents per thousand for 6 years, with another levy vote in 6 years. This discussion will be added to the June EMSC meeting agenda with a decision needed at the July EMSC meeting.
- D. Special Projects – Special Project applications were emailed to all 12 fire agencies with an expected return date of May 31st. Because of the delay in getting the applications out, Medic One postponed the procurement and invoice submission deadline to October 31st.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT – JW Foster moved to approve at 4:29, and this carried.