

Ambulance Service Board

Your Local Fire Departments

"Working on Your Behalf"

Spokane Valley Fire Department
Contract Administration
2120 N. Wilbur
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Phone (509) 928-1700

Large Participating Local Governments (2021- 2023)

Spokane Valley Fire Department

Fire District #8

Fire District #9

Fire District #4

Small Participating Local Governments (2021 - 2022)

Cheney Fire Department – Chief Jenkins – ASB Chair

Airway Height Fire Department

Fire District #3

Fire District #10

(Five PLG voting members needed for a quorum)

Other Participating Local Governments

Fire District #5, Fire District #11, Fire District #13

ASB Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, February 09, 2021** 1330 – 1355 Zoom Meeting

Present (Zoom Meeting)

Tom Jenkins, Gino Palomino, Ken Johnson, Lonnie Rash, Shawn Arold, Michael Charter, Darren Brieher, Paul Priest, and Nicole Castilliano (recorder).

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Jenkins called for a motion to approve the ASB Meeting Minutes from December 08, 2021. So moved by Shawn Arold and seconded by Lonnie Rash. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

New Business

1. Status of Pandemic and Impacts to Responses – AMR

Paul Priest shared the last peak of covid was interesting as he had several members affected by the virus, and at the highest point approximately 20 members out at one time. He was pleased to report that AMR had the ability to maintain full staffing as those that were in good health willingly accepted overtime to assist their teammates which was appreciated.

He also reported the hospitals have been inundated as last week reported the highest numbers for admittance to date. AMR is struggling with the lower acuity calls going to triage versus assigned a room and are having to wait 15 to 30 minutes (sometimes more) before a report is taken by hospital staff. If a low acuity patient and has been assigned to triage, they have urged hospital staff to transition into taking a two-to-three-minute report so they can deliver the patient and continue to the next response versus having to wait in line with the general public.

He added that he had an opportunity to do a ride-a-long to witness this firsthand. He was able to contact administration regarding the issue, however the fulfillment of the request was temporary. Paul is imploring the hospitals to change their processes which would benefit both entities.

Chief Jenkins inquired if there is anything the fire service can do to assist as he attended the January 20, 2022 EMS meeting and felt there was no resolution. Paul Priest stated that is what prompted him to do a ride-a-long with his crews. He suggested asking questions at the EMS council meetings to influence changes that will benefit everyone. He noted that during the fourth quarter of 2021 AMR averaged 3 more units per day and are realizing the delays. They are trying to navigate the demand as best they can and encourage hospital partners do the same.

Chief Jenkins inquired about an email from District 9 addressed to AMR regarding a BLS unit responding into their district. Paul Priest stated he would follow-up with Jim Walkowski as he did not have enough information. Later in the meeting it was discovered that the incident referenced in the email occurred off of Upriver Drive on the border of City Fire and District 9. Darren Brieher explained there is a neighborhood of about 6 blocks that is District 9 service area but is completely surrounded by City Fire to which they respond often, and this situation is understandably confusing for dispatch.

Action Item 1: Notify dispatch to verify which district the call is in before they have BLS respond.

Action Item 2: Priest/Brieher to connect with Walkowski to close his concern.

2. Status of Live AVL at SREC – AMR

Chief Jenkins inquired on the status of Live AVL and Dispatch as there is confusion as to what we as an ASB desired versus what dispatch wanted, and it is his impression dispatch is not fully up and running with AVL.

Paul Priest referenced last meeting minutes and reported as of December 7, 2021 they set up dispatch with links, provided them with individual passwords, and requested dispatch contact them if they experienced any issues. To date one person reached out and they were able to connect and remedy the issue to satisfaction. At this point in time, he had not heard of other issues but they will continue to assist remotely or plan a site visit if needed.

Chief Jenkins understood that a large screen television would be installed where dispatchers could view the location of all units in the county, but questioned if that was implemented? Paul Priest confirmed that they provide a link that they can display to a device of their choosing (ex: tv, computer monitor, etc.) as it is a web-based link that shows active live feed. Lonnie Rash added that some of the dispatchers have the link, however it was his understanding that it's on their monitor on a separate screen and they have to toggle back and forth to view the program.

Action Item: Jenkins to follow-up with SREC; Priest offered to assist as well.

3. 911 Spokane County Compliance Report – January 2022

Mike Charter presented the 911 Spokane County Compliance Report for January 2022. Discussion ensued regarding the presentation of the data, compliance, and exceptions. Should an agency need further detail than what was presented reach out to the contract administrator.

Action Item: Charter to add the criteria for each zone in the body of the email for quick reference when sending future compliance reports.

Old Business

1. Hiring Subcommittee

Lonnie Rash inquired, per previous discussion, on the status of hiring a full-time position to manage data and focus on compliance. Chief Jenkins admitted through the holiday's the momentum of the subcommittee ceased, however, he reported that communication with Attorney Brian Snure advised that as a consortium we do not have the authority to hire personnel but could explore hiring through a district or reformulating how we are as a body. Shawn Arold added another option to explore would be to hire through SREC and he confirmed we cannot hire, process payroll etc. as an ASB. Lonnie Rash offered support from his district as his organization's administration transition has settled and they now have the capacity to assist.

Action Item 1: Jenkins to re-start the subcommittee.

Action Item 2: Rash to confirm his member to be assigned.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 1330 hours. Note: the meeting of April 13 was rescheduled to April 20, 2022, at 1500 hours.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss Chief Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1355 hours.