Ambulance Service Board

Your Local Fire Departments

“Working on Your Behalf”

Large Participating Local Governments (2021-2023)

Spokane Valley Fire Department

Fire District #8

Fire District #9

Fire District #4

Small Participating Local Governments (2022 - 2023)

Cheney Fire Department – Tom Jenkins – ASB Chair

Airway Heights 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

July 12, 2023, at 1:30 P.M.

Present:
Chris Wyrobek, Cody Rohrbach, Dan Williams, Don Malone, Daron Bement (Zoom), Frank Soto, Jr., Jim Walkowski, John Leavell, Ken Johnson, Lonnie Rash, Mike Nokes, Tom Hatley, Tom Jenkins; AMR: Paul Priest and Jack Busch; Patty Ruggiero

Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2023, ASB Meeting Minutes approved.
Motion to approve: Chief Cody Rohrbach
Second: Chief Ken Johnson
Approved

Agenda Items:

Old Business

Ground Ambulance Service Agreement

Chief Lonnie Rash clarified that he is leading the compliance group for the next contract, not the negotiations.

Chief Jenkins said it worked well to have a small group negotiate the contract with AMR last time. He recommended there should be some different people on the group this time to get their fresh perspectives. There was agreement to form a subcommittee to look at the AMR contract and bring the information back to the board. They will negotiate the ground ambulance service agreement. Chief Don Malone volunteered to lead that group. Chief Jim Walkowski stated he thinks the Contract Administrator should be part of the negotiating group.

• Action Item:
Contact either Chief Jenkins or Chief Malone to let them know if you want to be part of the small group to negotiate the next contract.
New Business

1. Teamsters potentially going on strike
They have been through this many times before. They invited a Federal Mediator to the next session, which will take place on Monday and Tuesday next week. They have both seasoned and new stewards on their group. The Teamster group operates with joint council, who eventually signs off on any tentative agreements reached. In the past once a Mediator is involved, they have seen great success. They will have out of towners coming in from other Washington operations to do orientation to meet Dr. Nania and the EMS Council requirements in the event of a work action. They will approve orientation plans for those outside workers who would come in if needed. If they need to reach farther at the state level, they will involve Washington DOH to recognize reciprocity. Paul will keep Chief Soto and Chief Jenkins updated on the negotiation status.

Chief Leavell asked how long would it take for them to ramp up if everybody walked out? AMR crews are talking to SVFD crews. SVFD crews are asking what’s going to happen. He asked Paul to send a copy of AMR’s contingency plan. Paul said the chances of everyone walking out is pretty slim. Only 10 percent are turning out for their practice pickets. That is a good sign for us. They will negotiate toward middle ground. They would bring outside folks in to work on AMR’s ambulances. They will familiarize them with the radios. They already know the charting systems. They have great benefits; medical, dental, double time.

- Action Item:  
  Paul Priest will send AMR’s emergency contingency plan to the Contract Administrator (SVFD), Chief Soto and will keep Chief Soto and Chief Jenkins updated on the negotiation status.

2. Interlocal Agreement for Contract Services with SREC from Attorney Snure
Everyone reviewed the Interlocal Agreement Attorney Snure submitted to us.

Chief Jenkins spoke with Executive Director Lori Markham. They agreed that it puts the majority of the obligation on SREC. That is not our intent. We need to reword it to say we as the ASB will oversee or manage the contract and solicit SREC for data mining some information and build parameters. Chief Jenkins stated that his is working on a single page contract administrator responsibility document to include as an attachment to the ILA for SREC to consider. Chief Jenkins asked the group if we need to put this [ILA] on hold since our current contract with AMR will expire in less than a year and we don’t know the status of our current Contract Administrator (SVFD)? It would be nice to hear SVFD’s intentions about whether they are staying in the ASB sooner rather than later. We don’t want to generate a lot of unnecessary energy and consternation with SREC. We all have limited time and this is wildland season. The next two to three months will be busy for all of us. Chief Jenkins said he would like us to get the data and information we desire from SREC, but we need to know what kind of agreement AMR comes to with the Teamsters as that would impact our next contract with AMR. We’re looking more for a service agreement with SREC, not a job description so we don’t have to worry about hiring and firing. The contract for service ILA from Attorney Snure puts the responsibility almost 100 percent on SREC. We [ASB] want to retain oversight.

There was discussion and agreement that the inquiry into the Contract Administrator should be put on hold until September. There is concern about the financial sustainability due to unknown cost changes (wages and benefits) to the Teamsters contract with AMR and the impact if our
current Contract Administrator exits this group. We then will need to have a conversation with SREC. Is there a cost share to get what we need?

Districts 2 and 12 have asked if they could join the consortium. They would be here, but they are busy with wildfires right now.

- **Action Items:**
  Send Chief Jenkins any suggestions or changes for the Interlocal Agreement before next month’s meeting. He will circulate any ILA updates to the ASB. The actionable target date is September.

**Roundtable**

**District 8**
Chief Rash advised they had a few applicants for the HR position; will have interviews. They have an open position for Finance Executive Assistant.

Lonnie pointed out that it feels tense in the meeting. He said he doesn’t know why other than SVFD may be exiting the ASB. That is a business decision and he respects that. Our goal is to participate together, but it is fine if any one of us can’t do that. For now, we do need to rely on Valley for Contract Administration for their expertise. We should continue to walk down this process together. We’ll get through this as we always do, but it shouldn’t be a sticking point in our relationship. Chief Jenkins said he appreciates the Valley’s transparency. Chief Soto said he doesn’t have a final answer now, but he may know by next meeting. Chief Rohrbach wondered if there was anything contractually that would help make that decision. He would like to keep it together as a bigger group.

**District 4**
Chief Nokes said they are hiring some Firefighter Medics. SCFD4’s ALS transport license is now active. Chief Jenkins advised it was announced at the EMS Council meeting yesterday.

**AMR**
Paul Priest said he is looking forward to having the CA identified for a single point of contact to communicate to the group exactly how they are performing. They want to partner with somebody and are looking forward to everybody saying 100 percent what they want so they have a clear direction of the needs to meet. Currently, not everyone is clear on what’s being talked about. He said the last thing we want is to get to a final product and have others feel they are not delivering on what was agreed upon due to their not being in the “know” on the agreed upon terms. He encouraged everyone to say what they want to see covered and addressed, participate, have a clear understanding of the final agreement, and find a point of contact to fill the CA role so all can be up to date on the administration of the agreement.

**Cheney**
Chief Jenkins said he strives hard for transparency as Chairperson for this body and, also in the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association. Tom asked everyone to let him know if he needs to be more transparent.
The EMS Council Meeting was interesting yesterday. It was discussed at the EMS Council Meeting that we do well, as a county, on routine day-to-day emergencies and full-blown MCI’s with transports to the hospitals. There is a gray area in between where it appears the left hand does not talk to the right hand. There were some incidents in the county, trauma activations, that came from two jurisdictional areas that overwhelmed one of the hospitals. They are struggling for a way for us to fix that. We [Fire] have processes in our FOG for AMR to hold the responsibility to find out the hospital’s capacities. SREC isn’t in the business to know what the capacities are at the hospitals. The IC side is a well-oiled machine. The receiving end needs to figure it out. Jack Busch (AMR) said a lot of it comes from the hospital side. They know nothing about the FOG. They [hospitals] aren’t communicating with each other. There needs to be some clear communication.

Paul said in the future, we'll probably see an official resource hospital that is ad hoc activated. They would call in, have a trauma activation and they would destination them accordingly based on the hospital's availability. It happens on a larger scale. Spokane has become a larger system. There is more to come on this process. Jack said MultiCare & Providence are talking about a 90-day trial; which hour, which hospital is going to be overwhelmed? Tom pointed out that our population has doubled in the last two decades. It would be nice to have some of the physicians discuss how to build hospital capacity to meet the needs. Paul said figuring out behavioral health is a huge part of it. Tom agreed that is a huge commitment, draw down for us.

Tom said he was elected to lead this group [ASB], but he is by no means an expert in ground ambulance transport. He welcomed everyone to participate in the ASB discussions.

**District 9**
Jim Walkowski said we need to stay the course on the ILA, get that single point of contact regardless of what happens.

Tomorrow is graduation at Mead High School. There are three from District 3, three from District 8 and six from District 9.

**District 10**
Ken Johnson advised West Plains has quite a few Levies on the table.

**Newman Lake**
Chief Bement volunteered to be part of the contract negotiation subcommittee. He recommended the committee to include some of those that were on the last negotiation committee so it is not all new blood.

They are hosting the STFCA event tomorrow night at Station 13-1.

**Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn: __________
Second: Chief Soto
Meeting Adjourned at 1418.

**Next Meeting**
Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 1330 hours, at the SVFD Admin Building