Ambulance Service Board
Your Local Fire Departments
“Working on Your Behalf”

Large Participating Local Governments (January 1-June 30, 2024)
Spokane Valley Fire Department
  Fire District #9
  Fire District #4
  Fire District #8

Small Participating Local Governments (January 1-June 30, 2024)
  Cheney Fire Department – Tom Jenkins – ASB Chair
    Fire District #3
    Fire District #10
    Fire District #13

(six PLG voting members needed for a quorum)

Other Participating Local Governments
  Airway Heights Fire Department, Fire District #5, Fire District #11

ASB Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024, 1:30 P.M.

Present
Chris Wyrobek, Daron Bement, Dave Baird, Don Malone, Frank Soto, Jr, Jim Walkowski, Lonnie Rash, Tom Jenkins, Jack Busch(AMR), Paul Priest(AMR), Tim Loncon(AMR), Patty Ruggiero

Approval of Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve: Chief Bement
Second: Chief Walkowski and Chief Soto
December 13, 2023 ASB Meeting Minutes approved.

Agenda

New Business:
1. New member, Chief Dave Baird
The group welcomed our new member, Chief Dave Baird from Spokane Valley. Chief Baird has been with Spokane Valley Fire Department for seventeen years. He has been a Battalion Chief, Division Chief of Operations and is now the Division Chief of EMS.

2. New AMR Business Representative, Tim Loncon
Paul Priest introduced Tim Loncon. Tim’s official title at AMR will be Associate Supervisor, though he will be doing all sorts of things. Paul had Tim in mind for the new Contract Administrator position we had previously discussed. Chief Jenkins agreed he had also considered him for that position. Paul mentioned that he is looking forward to more transparency. ASB members are welcome to interact with Tim; cc both Paul Priest and Jack Busch on messages to Tim.
Tim said everyone has been welcoming to him. AMR has been beyond welcoming and he is excited to join them. He joined AMR to be a patient care advocate and to initiate more transparency.
Chief Jenkins welcomed Tim back to the area from Las Vegas and asked him to let us know if we can help him in any way.
3. AMR Response Letter to ASB’s Contract Extension Request
Paul Priest said he understands the one-year extension request, but a three-year extension would be better. So many little things are changing. Rates need to be adjusted. Some things can be amended and then we can move forward.

   Note: See the comments under Old Business.

4. Discuss vote to add District 2 to the consortium
Chief Jenkins advised that Chief Olson did not get any direction from his Board about whether to join the consortium as a collective or entertain a separate contract with AMR. He will get back to the ASB in a week or so after he hears back from his Board.

   • Action Item: Add this topic to next month’s meeting Agenda under Old Business

5. Confirm Large PLGs for term
Chief Jenkins reminded everyone that the way the 2008 By-Laws were constructed, the four largest participating governments (PLGs) automatically have a voting seat at the ASB table. All four are supposed to be present to vote on a topic. He received a document from SREC confirming the four PLGs are the same as they were before. The By-Laws also state the PLGs are based on transport volume; “the greatest average annual 911 ground ambulance transport incident volume...”. SREC does not manage transport volume data for each district so Chief Jenkins pulled the total aggregate 9-11 response data for each District. The top four Districts by call volume are Spokane Valley Fire Department, District 9, District 4 and District 8, which is well above the call volumes of the other Districts. A unanimous consensus was gathered to validate the 4 Large PLGs, however, we needed District 4, as a current Large PLG, to affirm.

   Note: After the meeting, Chief Jenkins sent an e-mail out with the data regarding the 4 “largest” PLGs within the Consortium. Chief Nokes responded confirming District 4 supports and approves the 4 Large PLGs mentioned above.

   • The four Large PLGs are as follows:
     o January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024
       Spokane Valley FD
       District 9
       District 4
       District 8

   • Action Item: Re-ratify the Large PLGs at the sunset of this current contract

6. Vote on four Small PLGs for term
Small PLGs are nominated for a two-year term and are confirmed by a vote. Fifty percent of the smallest participating governments (PLGs) must be present to take a vote. The 2008 By-Laws state that Small PLGs “are to be selected by the remaining PLGs as at-large representatives for the Small PLG Group”. The Small PLGs in the data pulled by Chief Jenkins are District 3, Airway Heights Fire Department, Cheney Fire Department, District 10, District 13 and District 5. Chief Walkowski presented a motion for the four small voting PLGs: District 3, Cheney Fire Department, District 10 and District 13. A unanimous consensus was reached (but not voted on), as District 4 is required to solidify the vote.

   Note: After the meeting, Chief Jenkins sent an e-mail out with the data regarding the 6 “smallest” PLGs within the Consortium and advised of the motion and unanimous consensus for District 3, District 10, District 13 and Cheney Fire Department to become the Small PLGs until the end of this contract. Chief Nokes responded confirming District 4 supports and
approves the 4 Small PLGs mentioned above. Chief Rohrbach responded confirming District 3 supports the data regarding verification of the 4 Small PLGs.

- **The four Small PLGs are as follows:**
  - January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024
    - District 3
    - Cheney FD
    - District 10
    - District 13

- **Action Item:** Re-ratify the Small PLGs at the sunset of this current contract

**Old Business**

1. **Sub-committee update regarding negotiation for the next contract with AMR**

   Chief Malone said after last month’s committee’s approval, the ASB presented a formal memo to AMR with our intent to enter into a one-year extension. AMR responded with their desire to enter into negotiations. After some good conversation during the meeting, the ASB reached a consensus that negotiations for a new contract instead of an extension would be the best option. District 4 was not present so no vote was taken; their vote as one of the 4 Large PLGs is required to move forward.

   Chief Jenkins thanked the sub-committee for their time spent talking through the possible options for the next contract.

   **Note:** After the meeting, Chief Jenkins sent an e-mail out asking District 4 to vote whether the ASB should enter into negotiations with the AMR for a new contract? Chief Nokes responded confirming District 4 supports and approves proceeding with negotiations for a new contract. Chief Rohrbach also responded confirming District 3 supports the recommendation to proceed with negotiations for a new contract.

**Roundtable**

**District 8 (Chief Rash)**

Chief Rash said he appreciates the collaboration in this group.

**District 9 (Chief Walkowski)**

Chief Jenkins formally announced Chief Walkowski as the new Fire Chief of District 9. Chief Walkowski said there is a lot of transition and change in his District. They have redundancy built into everything in their organization except their ability to get someone to the hospital. He is fully supporting the ASB and will be staying in the ASB, but they are looking into filing for ambulance transport license as District 4 has done. This will help to build capacity and redundancy in their District.

**SVFD (Chief Soto)**

Chief Soto asked if AMR considers cost of living in the total cost of the rate increase? The cost of living in Seattle is a lot more than it is here. Paul Priest said there are several other factors in play but cost of living is considered for the rate in this area.

Chief Soto mentioned that out of all the EMS calls here, 50-60 percent are coded as ALS. That is abnormally high. Around the rest of the country, 70 percent of the EMS calls are coded as BLS (30 percent ALS). When going through accreditation, they were flustered about the high rate of
ALS calls in our area. Chief Soto suggested it may be time for the ASB to sit down with SREC to find out how they are coding calls. Paul Priest said there is not a standardized process. Chief Walkowski said they looked at six months of data in their district and calculated the actual disposition of each call. They found that 38 percent of the calls were actually ALS calls and everything else was BLS. Chief Jenkins said the system is flawed as to how calls are coded by Dispatch. We would rather have the right resource for the call. Everyone agreed. Chief Soto said the bigger problem we have is hospital wait times. This Board may need to present something to the EMS Council to force the hands of the hospitals to take patients fifteen minutes after arrival or we would need to begin medical directions.

**District 10 (Chief Malone)**

Chief Malone said they are going through a lot of changes with staffing, personnel, and call volume. They are also looking into applying for a transport license to have it as a backup plan just in case it is needed.

**AMR**

Tim Loncon said he appreciates the warm welcome. He is excited to be back with patient care in mind and give the citizens what they deserve. He will send out his phone number to this group.

**Cheney (Chief Jenkins)**

Nothing

**Newman Lake (Chief Bement)**

Nothing

**Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Chief Bement
Second: Chief Soto
Adjourned at 2:40 PM

**Next Meeting:**
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 1330 hours, at the SVFD Administration Building