



**Emergency Medical Services
Technical Advisory Board**
800 Chestnut Street
Online Meeting
January 5th, 2022
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Minutes

TAB Members:

Fire Chief Jerry DeBruin – Whatcom EMS/TC Council	Present
Susie Johnson RN – Hospital/Medical Rep	Present
Asst Chief Pethick – City of Bellingham Admin	Present
Div. Chief Scott Ryckman – Bellingham Fire Dept.	Present
Fire Chief Mel Blankers – Whatcom County Fire Chiefs	Present
Asst Chief Crosswhite – Fire District 7	Present
Mike Hilley – EMS Manager	Present
Dr. Marvin Wayne, WC MPD	Present
Capt. Micha Quintrall – Paramedic Training	Present
Div. Chief Dan McDermott – Prospect/What-Comm Dispatch Center	Present

In Attendance:

Jeremy Morton – WCEMS
Steven Cohen – WCEMS
Katie Poole – WCEMS

1. 1. Welcome & Confirmation of November 3rd, 2021 Minutes
 - a. a. After corrections on November 3rd meeting minutes, relating to the creation of a committee and attendance, the minutes were unanimously approved.
2. BLS Allocation Calculator and Discussion (Hilley)
 - a. Mike Hilley introduced the BLS Allocation Calculator to the board, including its history and projected purpose. It started as an idea in the Levy Planning Committee, then was introduced to the Finance Sub-Committee for review. The Finance Sub-Committee gave their endorsement for this formula, and sent it to the TAB with a favorable recommendation to consider. The goal of the BLS allocation calculator is to equitably distribute funds for BLS throughout the various fire districts in the county.

- b. Hilley mentioned that an updated version of the excel spreadsheet will be distributed soon, however the presented version still gives an accurate representation of the formula.
- c. Hilley expressed that there has been a recent push for a 2022 BLS reimbursement due to the EMS levy end-fund balance. The question that remains is the specific amount to reimburse the agencies for 2022. At the end of 2022, the estimated in-fund balance is about \$21,000,000, with \$12-\$13 million reserved in case the 2022 levy does not pass. Hilley mentioned that the calculated BLS allocation for future years will be determined at a different time.
- d. Chief Blankers said that the formula has been discussed-previous to this meeting-among Whatcom County Fire Chiefs. The Fire Chiefs have given unanimous support to present a motion to the board. The motion stated that ***“I move we provide a one-time allocation of \$5 million from the EMS fund to support the cities and fire district providing BLS services in Whatcom County. Each agency share will be shared on the formula using the 30% Assessed Value and 70% BLS Response Load as found in the attached spreadsheet [Hilley] just presented.”*** Motion was seconded by Commissioner RobRoy Graham. ***Discussion points Below:***
- e. Chief Blankers mentioned that a spreadsheet has been sent to Hilley with BLS spending for 2020, and what each agency would get in comparison to that spending.
- f. Hilley clarified that the current motion is for a one-time reimbursement of \$5 million dollars to the fire districts, which will be calculated by the formula on currently presented. The motion is seconded by Chief DeBruin.
- g. Chief Blankers expressed that the one-time allocation is helping reimburse the districts for the BLS costs incurred since the levy started, therefore it’s the right thing to do.
- h. Chief Blankers and adds that the BLS costs incurred by the districts have been happening since before the levy. Chief DeBruin also expressed that the county should make the money easy to access, and anything else would not be acceptable. Hilley thanked [Name 2] for his comments, and clarified that there does need to be a paperwork trail for the allocated money, however the goal is to keep the process as easy as possible. The money will be taken to council first for approval, and then a paperwork trail/mechanism will be established for each agency.
- i. Chief McDermott spoke in favor of the motion and expresses that the \$5 million dollars is not too much to ask for, due to the fact, each fire district subordinating their taxing authority for the levy, which ultimately increased the cost for BLS calls. Hilley thanked McDermott for his contributions and mentions that individual levies from certain districts are expiring this year.
- j. Discussion about the absence of District 4 and 8 on the presented excel spreadsheet. Hilley responds that this issue is currently trying to be resolved, and the administration is currently working on a solution. Jeremy Morton gives an explanation in response to the question about District 4 and District 8, by presenting an updated spreadsheet to the board. Ben Boyko had a question about one aspect of the current formula, and suggested to use incident type in the formula for more accurate allocation.
- k. Chief DeBruin expressed that the information should be given to the EOB as soon as possible, with unanimous agreement from TAB. Hilley recognizes the importance of this action.

1. Hilley presented the motion to move the \$5 million-dollar budget recommendation to the EOB for approval. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

3. Levy Planning Report (Hilley)
 - a. Levy planning has been broken down into smaller subcommittees. Forest Longman and Ben Boyko, Marianne Caldwell, Chief Hoffman and Dewey Desler have been working on the finance section of the levy plan. The WCEMS Levy Strategic Plan is approximately 75% done. There were discussions in the finance sub-committee meeting about the tax rate for the upcoming levy, compared to the previous levy.
 - b. In addition, the ALS and BLS committee have met to review the upcoming recommendations for the new Levy Strategic Plan. A rough draft for the levy should be available by the end of the month for the EOB meeting. All edits and suggestions will be welcomed.
 - c. Chief McDermott comments that the finance committee should remember that certain aspects of the previous levy were not implemented, making the current end-fund balance an inaccurate model to use for determining the tax rate in the future.

4. Operations Data Committee Report (Morton)
 - a. Jeremy Morton went over data consistency and efforts to further improve recording of data points for continuous quality improvement measures for the upcoming years. Hilley mentions that the CQI committee has been seeing better documentation for certain data points.

5. Paramedic School (Ryckman)
 - a. Scott Ryckman presented the Paramedic School updates. Hilley mentioned a positive report from the Camino Island Chief who hired two students from the paramedic program.

6. Good of the Order