

**Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee**  
**May 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes**  
**County Board Room 114, Walworth County Government Center**  
**100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Peters at 10:08 a.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Chair John Peters, Vice Chair Dave Nelson, Denise Pieroni, James Weiss and Bruce Vander Veen. Lowell Hagen was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others present: Walworth County Administrator David Bretl; County Board Chair Nancy Russell; Rebecca LeMire, Village of Darien Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Rod Smith, City of Elkhorn Fire Chief; Ashley Vickers, Mercy Health; David Fladten, Gateway Technical College; Richard Tuma, Walworth County Citizen

**Administrator Bretl suggested moving Item C under New Business to the top of the agenda. Vice Chair Nelson made a motion, seconded by Vander Veen, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Vander Veen made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Nelson, to approve the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Public comment** – Richard Tuma introduced himself as a citizen of Walworth County and the former Director of Emergency Preparedness in Waukesha County. He currently works for a number of consultation services throughout the country that deal with 911 services.

### **New Business**

- Presentation by David Fladten regarding Gateway College EMS training  
David Fladten introduced himself as the EMS Division Chief for Elkhorn Fire Department. He is also the Chair of the EMS Advisory Committee and adjunct faculty at Gateway Technical College. There has been a decline in enrollment for EMS courses over the last 8-10 years, which has forced the EMS Advisory Committee to find ways to increase interest and participation. This summer Gateway is offering an 8-hour per day program for the first time, and they have seen a significant increase in enrollment. They had to add a second class to accommodate the number of students enrolled. They will also be offering an Advanced EMT course during the day this fall to meet the needs of those who work second shift. Pieroni asked about outreach to high schools and possible scholarships. Fladten said Gateway has offered a high school level EMT course for the last few years. They currently work with Badger and Elkhorn High Schools and have been successful. There has been discussion with Big Foot and Whitewater High Schools, but nothing is in place yet. The high school course is offered during the spring semester of senior year and lectures are offered via satellite. Students must travel to Gateway for lab sections. Many students use this as a pathway to a career such as nursing or medical school. Some have joined local services as EMTs. Fladten said the student doesn't pay for the program, rather youth options pays for it. Gateway is currently in talks to provide scholarships for those not in a youth option program.

- Discussion regarding consolidated dispatch centers  
Bretl distributed a letter from Lawrence Malsch who shared his perspective on Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs). Chair Peters said this Committee has wanted a single dispatch center but there may be issues involved that we do not know about. It would be helpful if we could see more facts supporting one dispatch center. Vander Veen agreed. Pieroni said there are a lot of things that are different from when Mr. Malsch was working on the 911 committee and she spoke in favor of a single dispatch center as a

way to more effectively utilize staffing. Tuma said the current study is two years old and there have been new developments since it was done. He said no Fire or EMS issues were discussed in this study, though, but the Sheriff's Office study could be expanded to include them. He advised that it is better to study consolidation and infrastructure separately. Vander Veen asked if the \$25 million infrastructure idea would be possible in the space we currently have. Vander Veen said he would like a study to be independently done. Peters asked how Tuma has seen these studies done in the past and Tuma said in Wisconsin, most dispatch centers are through the County, but in other places they are generally independent. Discussion continued regarding feasibility studies. **Vander Veen made a motion, seconded by Pieroni, to request the County to conduct a feasibility study on an independent consolidated public safety dispatch center that would be conducted in the County Administrator's office that utilizes the results of the previously completed workflow study conducted by the Sheriff's Office to include in the 2020 budget and to forward this to the County Board and The Sheriff's Office.** County Board Chair Nancy Russell suggested a resolution might be better for this. Bretl said his office would work on creating said resolution. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- Schedule a field trip to Waukesha County dispatch center  
July 10<sup>th</sup> was agreed on as a date to conduct the field trip.
- Possible speaker at a future meeting from a County that has County-supported ALS services  
Chair Peters said this item will be discussed at a future meeting.

- Discussion of Assembly Bill 142

Bretl included a copy of the proposed bill in the packet and said if this Committee approved, it could be forwarded to the County Board to draft a supporting resolution. The definition of a volunteer was discussed, but was unclear in the Assembly bill and the State Statutes. Pieroni said she supports the bill but asked if we recommend support, do we want to include something that works for the majority of the volunteer departments in our county. Bretl said they could support it while also asking for the definition of volunteer to be clearly defined. **Pieroni made a motion, seconded by Vander Veen, to ask the County Board to create a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 142, as long as the definition of a volunteer in State Statute 256.01 is clearly defined. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Discuss changes to the "Recommendations" document  
Chair Peters said this item will be discussed at a future meeting.

- Topics for next meeting

The following item was set to be discussed at the July meeting:

- Field Trip to Waukesha County Dispatch Center

**Public comment** – There was none.

**Next meeting date and time:** The next meeting will be held on July 10th at the Waukesha County Dispatch Center.

## **Adjournment**

**On motion by Weiss, seconded by Pieroni, Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.**