

DRAFT

**Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee
June 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dale Wilson at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of members was present: Chair Dale Wilson, Dave Nelson, Denise Pieroni, Bruce Vander Veen (arrived at 1:10 p.m.) and James Weiss.

Dr. Steve Andrews, Dr. James MacNeal, Ken Monroe, Fred Schalow and County Administrator David Bretl were in also attendance.

James Weiss made a motion, seconded by Dave Nelson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

Denise Pieroni made a motion, seconded by Dave Nelson, to approve the May 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public comment period – There was none.

Follow-up regarding Walworth County 911 mapping detail

Chair Wilson followed up with Captain Jamie Green at the Sheriff's Office. There is a layer in the County's GIS system that has icons depicting where fire stations are located, and a separate sheet would show addresses and locations, but unfortunately the maps do not show "department" service areas.

Discussion and possible action regarding surveying Fire/EMS departments and local government
Denise Pieroni made a motion, seconded by James Weiss, to approve the Governing Body Survey as revised. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire/EMS Personnel Survey

Discussion ensued about revisions to certain questions, and the following changes were recommended:

Question 15: Revise to read: "Please provide a map depicting your department's service area, boundaries and station locations."

In Questions 40 and 41 concerning revenue and expenditures, add after total revenues: "including donations and fund raised dollars."

Add a question AFTER Question 41: 42. "Detail your agency's next five anticipated capital expenditures and when you expect those expenditures to occur." (Add the same question for EMS.)

Renumber the remaining questions.

Denise Pieroni made a motion, seconded by Chair Wilson, to approve the Fire/Ems Personnel Survey questions as modified. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding transmittal letter for Fire/EMS and Governmental Body Surveys

County Administrator David Bretl said the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) meets on Tuesday, June 27. He will distribute copies of the Governing Body Survey at the meeting. The Fire Chiefs meeting is scheduled for July 12 in LaGrange, and copies of the Fire/EMS Personnel Surveys will

be distributed at that meeting. Discussion was held on appropriate language to put in the transmittal letters. Ms. Pieroni recommended setting a deadline for responses, and offering to provide a facilitator to those who need assistance in completing the surveys. Consensus was to encourage the municipalities and Fire/EMS units to involve everyone in their organizations to participate in responding to the questions. Mr. Nelson suggested including a sentence that responses and input from fire/EMS personnel will be critical in making future recommendations. Chair Wilson will draft the transmittal letter for the Fire/EMS personnel and email it to the committee. If there are no objections, he and Vice Chair Peters will sign them and send them out after the ICC and Fire meetings. Directive was to request all responses be submitted by September 15. Dr. MacNeal asked if Polco could assist in preparing the preliminary tabulation of the responses, and Bretl said they wouldn't work with hard copies of data. Chair Wilson suggested staff might be able to help out.

Bretl will author the letter of transmittal to the municipalities, advising them how the survey committee was formed, a recap of meetings to date, the purpose of the survey, and that they will be receiving them in the mail for response by September 15. Assistance will be available upon request by the municipality. Bretl will contact an organization that might be able to act as facilitators for the survey completion. He will report back at the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding creation of potential survey of county residents relative to Fire/EMS services

Chair Wilson asked for input from the Committee. Mr. Nelson suggested asking Polco to compile some sample questions. Chair Wilson said any surveys conducted by Polco require County Board approval. Ms. Pieroni suggested asking citizens what level of service they desire and whether they would be willing to pay for it. Another potential question would be whether sharing services among communities would be acceptable. Chair Wilson, Denis Pieroni and Vice Chair Peters will serve on the subcommittee to draft questions for the citizen survey. The meeting will be held in July. Chair Wilson will post the date.

Discussion regarding next steps the Committee should take in the Fire/EMS study

Bretl asked if someone from the Committee wanted to attend the ICC meeting, and Denise Pieroni said she would be there for that portion of the meeting. Bretl read his draft of the transmittal letter for the Governing Body Surveys and said he would distribute them at the ICC meeting. Bruce Vander Veen and Dave Nelson will be at the July 12th Fire Chiefs meeting, and will take copies of the surveys to distribute and answer questions. After the Chiefs meeting, Wilson will send out the Fire/EMS transmittal letters, to be signed by him and Vice Chair Peters.

Public comment period – There was none.

Confirmation of next meeting date and time: The citizen survey subcommittee will be held in July, and the regular Fire/EMS Study Committee meeting will be Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Dave Nelson, seconded by James Weiss, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

We would like to thank you in advance of taking the time to visit this page/survey! This survey is being conducted on behalf of the Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee to survey the public on certain aspects of providing services to you as citizen of Walworth County.

In case you weren't aware, numerous towns and municipalities requested the Walworth County Board of Supervisors to establish a committee to develop recommendations to ensure the sustainability of Fire/EMS services in our County. Certain areas of Walworth County are experiencing challenges in providing these services so the County Board established a committee to gather information and potentially provide recommendations. The Fire/EMS Study Committee is currently gathering information from many sources ranging from your local Fire or EMS department, your local elected officials, as well as you the potential user of the services being provided. We hope you will take the time to answer these questions included below. Your perspective is important to us!

1. What is your age?

- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 and older

2. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

3. What is the combined level of income for your household?

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,000-100,000
- \$100,000-150,000
- \$150,000-250,000
- +\$250,000

4. What department services your residence for a fire emergency?

- (List of options)
- I don't know

5. What department services your residence for a medical (EMS) emergency?

- (List of options)
- I don't know

6. Please select what type of municipality you reside in.

- City
- Village
- Township

7. If you needed to call for medical (EMS) emergency services in the last 3 years, did the response time of the EMS services
 - Exceed your expectations
 - Meet your expectations
 - Was longer than my expectations
 - I did not request EMS services in the last 3 years

8. If you needed to call for fire emergency related services in the last 3 years, did the response time of the services
 - Exceed your expectations
 - Meet your expectations
 - Was longer than my expectations
 - I did not request fire emergency related services in the last 3 years

9. For medical (EMS) emergency services, what do you consider an acceptable response time from when the 911 call was placed?
 - Less than 5 minutes
 - 5 to 9 minutes
 - 10-14 minutes
 - 15 minutes or greater

10. For fire emergency related services, what do you consider an acceptable response time (arrival time of the first responding apparatus) from when the 911 call was placed?
 - Less than 5 minutes
 - 5 to 9 minutes
 - 10-14 minutes
 - 15 minutes or greater

11. Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to decrease the response time of medical (EMS) emergency services?
 - Yes
 - No

12. Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to decrease response time of fire emergency related services?
 - Yes
 - No

There are different service levels allowed in the State of Wisconsin related to providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS). These levels include: Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Life Support (ALS) Advanced EMT, or ALS Paramedic. In Walworth County, all departments providing EMS services operate at either the ALS Advanced EMT level or the ALS Paramedic level. These different levels allow emergency personnel to utilize different skills during a course of treatment. Below are definitions to help educate the public on the differences, as well as to help you answer certain questions that follow.

ALS Advanced EMT (Emergency Medical Technician): provides basic life support and limited advanced life support. They can defibrillate patients in cardiac arrest; start IVs to give fluids and sugar; give nebulizer treatments and other interventions for breathing problems; give aspirin and nitroglycerin for chest pain; and, give epinephrine for severe allergic reactions.

ALS Paramedics: same abilities as an Advanced EMT with addition of the ability to administer certain seizure medications; administer narcotic-pain and anti-nausea medications; administer medications to control violent patients; administer medications/interventions to treat patients with irregular heart rhythms; and, have more advanced interventions for breathing problems.

As you can imagine, not every call requires a Paramedic level skillset and in Walworth County there are certain private agencies providing an ALS Paramedic level of service if your responding agency does not (i.e. your responding agency can request assistance currently for a Paramedic level response if your emergency requires the additional skillset of a Paramedic).

13. What level of service do you believe your local agency is providing if you dialed 911 for a medical emergency?

ALS Advanced EMT

ALS Paramedic

I don't know

14. Would you be willing to pay more for an increased level of service as defined above (this would likely be in the form of higher fees for service as well as taxes)?

Yes

No

Below are questions relative to some specific concerns brought to us by local agencies as well as an overall philosophy on a changing service delivery model.

15. Recruitment and retention of staff for volunteer, paid on call, or full time firefighters and EMS personnel is down nationwide. Specifically, many agencies are having difficulty recruiting volunteers and paid-on-call staff.

Were you aware that Walworth County is also experiencing this trend as well?

Yes

No

16. Would you be interested in applying at your local agency as a firefighter or EMS staff member? If yes, please provide your information so we can pass it along to your local agency.

Yes

No

17. Would you be willing to have an increase in your taxes to support recruitment and retention strategies for firefighter and EMS staff?

18. Would you support the efforts if your community determined it was best to explore options to consolidate services with your neighboring communities if this effort would:

A. Improve service delivery (i.e. quicker response times, different level of services, staffing efficiencies, etc.)

Yes

No

B. Reduce or stabilize the costs of delivering emergency services to your community?

Yes

No

The Fire and EMS Study Committee would like to thank you for taking the time to provide us with information. This will help guide the committee in any recommendations being made to ensure the sustainability of Fire and EMS services in our County.