

**Summit County
Emergency Medical Services Board
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2021**

Consistent with provisions of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, Utah Code Ann. §52-4-207(4), the Summit County Emergency Medical Services Board (“EMS Board”) Chair has issued written determinations supporting the EMS Board’s decision to convene electronic meetings of the EMS Board without a physical anchor location. Due to the health and safety risks related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and considering public health orders limiting in-person gatherings, members of the public should not attend EMS Board meetings in person. However, members of the public are invited and encouraged to view and participate in the EMS Board’s electronic meetings as described below.

Members of the public who wish to listen to this meeting may do so by emailing your intent to participate to EMSBoardMeetings@pcfd.org, at which time detailed instructions for joining the meeting will be provided. Public input will be taken using the chat feature.

Summit County EMS Board meeting called to order: 2:01 p.m.

SCEMS B Voting Members Present: SS Chief Scott Anderson
Summit Co. Health Director Phil Bondurant
Summit Co. County Manager Tom Fisher
PCFD Chief Paul Hewitt
Bob Jasper
NS Chief Ian Nelson

SCEMS B Voting Members Absent: Dr. Scott McIntosh

Voting members present constituted a quorum.

Others in Attendance: PCFD Chief Ashley Lewis – SCEMS B Ex Officio
Kamas Mayor Matt McCormick – SCEMS B Ex Officio
Summit Co. Deputy County Manager Janna Young – SCEMS B Ex Officio
Summit Co. Deputy Attorney Jami Brackin – SCEMS B Ex Officio
PCFD Admin. Asst. Debbie Colgan – Recorder

Others Absent: Coalville Mayor Trever Johnson – SCEMS B Ex Officio

I. Roll Call

Chief Hewitt began the meeting by reading the statement above regarding Utah Code Section 52-4-207(4) and then conducted a roll call.

II. Approval of April 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes

County Manager Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021, Summit County EMS Board meeting and the motion was seconded by Chief Anderson. County Manager Fisher, Chief Anderson, Chief Hewitt, Chief Nelson, and Bob Jasper voted in favor of the motion

and the motion passed 5-0. Health Director Bondurant abstained from voting, as he was not present for the April 20, 2021, meeting.

III. HB 303 and Implications for Summit County

Deputy Attorney Brackin said HB 303 basically changed the nature of emergency medical service to now be an essential service that is required to be provided by both cities and counties. Cities must provide the service within their city limits and counties must provide the service for the unincorporated county. Cities and counties may contract with a licensed provider to render those services within their jurisdictional areas.

Right now, Summit County has contracted with Park City Fire District (PCFD) to provide EMS service for the entire county, including the cities. This new bill now requires cities to also contract with Summit County and PCFD in order to have that service inside their municipal limits, and they are required to pay for it. Also, because it is an essential service and due to jurisdictional issues, it changed the way they do the licensing.

For Summit County, a single license for this service under the state's licensing provisions has been issued. This is the license "umbrella" for Summit County, and the license designates a medical director and allows PCFD to provide all EMS services up to and including paramedic services. Under this umbrella, different fire district or agencies can also get designations, and those designations would come through the County and PCFD. They can be designated to provide EMR, EMT, or other designations, but it would all come under the umbrella and supervision of the licensee. If North or South Summit fire want to get a designation, they need to work with PCFD and Summit County.

Chief Nelson commented North or South Summit could apply for a license in the future if they wish to do so. Deputy Attorney Brackin replied that is correct but requirements will need to be met, including proving the service the agency is proposing is at the same level or better at the same cost. Chief Nelson said licensure is required if they choose to be a transport agency or offer paramedic-level service, so that will not be a consideration until they get to that level. He commented the stringent requirements are likely a strategy to make sure agencies can handle the service they want to provide.

A discussion on funding issues followed regarding the new requirement that cities must provide EMS services or contract with an EMS provider and pay a fee. Mayor McCormick commented a percentage of the County general fund goes toward EMS, which he believes means taxpayers in Kamas are already paying towards that service. Deputy Attorney Brackin replied citizens are paying property taxes into the general fund, but the County does not have to fund EMS through the general fund, they just chose to do so. Mayor McCormick commented the County has set a precedent in using the general fund to pay for EMS services and he believes there is an expectation this will continue. Mayor McCormick said there should be more discussion on taxation and financing mechanisms because he feels his residents understand they are already paying for EMS service. If that is not the case, he wants to know where the money they pay to the County is allocated so the residents see a benefit.

Mayor McCormick asked whether the EMS license is under PCFD and Summit County, or just under Summit County. Deputy Attorney Brackin replied the license is in the name of both PCFD and Summit County because PCFD is the County's contracted agency. Chief Lewis added PCFD's license had the paramedic component in place and this allowed paramedic service to spread into the North and South Summit areas. He said the names on the license can be changed through the direction of the Summit County Council and the State of Utah, and Chief Nelson commented licensure for North and South Summit is still down the road.

Chief Nelson asked whether incorporated towns will need to provide service or contract with a provider under the new law, and Deputy Attorney Brackin replied incorporated towns and cities do indeed fall under the new requirement.

Chief Hewitt asked if there is anything that needs to be accomplished immediately regarding the new law, and County Manager Fisher asked if there is a timeline for cities and counties to be in compliance. Deputy Attorney Brackin replied the law went into effect on May 5 and the state wants compliance as soon as possible. Chief Nelson commented it will be up to the mayors, the Summit County Council, and County Manager Fisher to meet and decide what the cities are going to do, and County Manager Fisher agreed. Deputy Attorney Brackin said Chiefs Nelson and Anderson can work with PCFD and County Manager Fisher now to get any designations they want.

Bob Jasper commented discussions will need to be held to ensure the cities are paying their fair share. County Manager Fisher agreed this will likely be a key point when discussions begin, and he believes it will take time for cities and counties to come into compliance.

IV. EMS Budgets and Staffing

Chief Lewis thanked Paramedic Doug Fryer for his contributions and service to the EMS system as the EMS Coordinator for North and South Summit. Paramedic Fryer will be retiring next month, and four full-time EMT positions will be created in the place of the EMS Coordinator position. Chief Lewis said input was received from our EMTs regarding full-time positions, and he said EMTs did not apply for reasons such as of the amount of down time in the stations, not being able to work a full-time schedule due to other employment, the pay was not enough even with the compensation package, the commute, and the price of housing. Four internal EMTs did apply, however, and we will not have to hire as often for a full-time position as we would a part-time position, as there is a constant turnover with part-time EMTs.

Chief Lewis said after looking at multiple scenarios for moving forward, having 8 full-time positions during the day would be beneficial, and the total compensation for those positions would be about \$875K. We would also need to look at operational expenses and having an EMS manager to manage the operations. We would not want to transition to full-time operations at night because the statistics and call data does not justify it, and working part-time at night allows people to work their full-time jobs during the day and help us out as a part-time EMT at night. Chief Lewis said we are looking at roughly \$300K above the current budget to make these changes.

County Manager Fisher asked if there is a way to quantify the level of service offered now and the level of service that we will be paying for if the budget is increased. Chief Lewis replied the EMS summary report prepared in November that shows we are on par with other systems in the state. If we went to a full-time program in the North and South Summit areas, Chief Lewis believes we would have a top-tier program compared to the rest of the state. Chief Hewitt commented hiring full-time employees would alleviate some of the concern about the high turnover rate of EMTs in the North and South Summit areas. Longer term employees get to know the areas and their jobs better and help stabilize the system, and that may be difficult to quantify.

County Manger Fisher said it is important for funding conversations to start well ahead of August. He asked Chiefs Lewis and Hewitt if the proposal they are forming would make the level of service more even between the districts. Chief Hewitt replied if we are talking about a 110-square-mile district with four ambulances always in service versus all of the County's other service area which is 4 times the area of Park City's service area, the answer is no. However, he said it will stabilize staffing, which will improve the service. Chief Hewitt said the EMS system will need more funding to continue to stabilize the system and provide better service. County Manager Fisher commented staffing has been the biggest issue, and over the next month and a half the EMS Board will need to firm up what they will be asking for in the August budget proposal.

Bob Jasper commented perhaps resources should be divided up differently in order to boost the east side. Chief Nelson replied the citizens of Park City have voted for a higher tax rate and that is why their budget is higher, and it is not fair for those citizens to subsidize the east side with Park City's budget. Chief Nelson said this is something we would need to take to citizens on the east side; if they want a higher level of service, they will need to pay for it.

Chief Lewis said funds for purchasing ambulances are lacking. County Manager Fisher commented we have essentially been purchasing an ambulance a year and asked if that was not working. Chief Lewis replied the cost of ambulances has gone up and the ambulance budget has basically remained the same, so this will be an area of interest in budget preparation as well. He has been looking at other vehicle options, and County Manger Fisher asked how the medical van that is now in operation in Park City is working out. Chief Lewis replied he is getting as much constructive feedback as he can, and Park City is the only agency he is aware of that uses a van as a front-line response vehicle for fire and EMS. He said there is a lot of considerations to take into account when using a van, we are still getting feedback and he is optimistic about its operation.

V. EMS/Fire Joint Response

Chief Hewitt asked Chiefs Nelson and Anderson how they think the joint EMS/fire response is working, and Chief Nelson replied it is working well on the north end. Chief Anderson replied South Summit Fire is making adjustments and it is going OK. Chief Hewitt said Chiefs Nelson and Anderson could contact him anytime if anything needs to be improved upon.

VI. Call Statistics

Chief Lewis provided a quick overview of last month's call statistics including number of calls, training, response times, and staffing hours. In April there were 10 hours out of 2880 total staffing hours where there was one provider available. From January to April there were 13 hours on average per month where there was only 1 provider. The only time an area is potentially unstaffed is when there is a call where the ambulance is transporting a patient to the hospital, and during those times another ambulance will move to a central location to cover. Response times do not vary greatly from month to month, and the dispatch to enroute time is the only response time we can control. Mayor McCormick commented in the monthly report prepared by Chief Lewis, he would like to see when only 1 provider was available during the monthly timeframe and how that relates to calls that happened during that time.

VII. Other Updates

Deputy Attorney Brackin pointed out Chief Nelson commented in Zoom chat that Park City's property tax rate is 0.000907 and North Summit Fire's rate is 0.000589. Chief Anderson said he believed South Summit's rate was slightly lower than North Summit Fire. After the meeting had adjourned, Chief Anderson sent an email to the Board members stating South Summit's tax rate is 0.000537, and Wasatch County is at 0.000576.

VIII. Public Input

There was no one from the public attending.

IX. Discussion of Possible Future Agenda Items/Additional Comments

County Manager Fisher suggested the next meeting happen toward the end of June or beginning of July to go over the budget proposal. The next Summit County EMS Board meeting was scheduled for July 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

X. Adjournment

Chief Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by County Manager Fisher. The meeting of the Summit County EMS Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m.