

**Summit County
Emergency Medical Services Board
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 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: 2:04 p.m.

SCEMS B Voting Members Present: SS Chief Scott Anderson
PCFD Chief Paul Hewitt
Bob Jasper (joined at approx. 2:19 p.m.)

SCEMS B Voting Members Absent: Dr. Scott McIntosh
Summit Co. Health Director Phil Bondurant
Summit Co. County Manager Tom Fisher
NS Chief Ian Nelson

Voting members present did not constitute 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
(joined at approx. 2:18 p.m.)
Dr. Mike Dbeisi
PCFD Admin. Asst. Debbie Colgan – Recorder

Others Absent: Coalville Mayor Trever Johnson – SCEMS B Ex Officio
Summit Co. Deputy Attorney Jami Brackin – SCEMS B Ex Officio

I. Roll Call

The start of the meeting was delayed a few minutes to wait for members to join. Chief Hewitt began the meeting at 2:04 p.m. by reading the statement above regarding Utah Code Section 52-4-207(4). A brief discussion was held regarding meeting in person for future meetings rather than electronically, and the next Board meeting will be scheduled for in-person attendance at the Park City Administration Building. Chief Hewitt then conducted a roll call.

II. Approval of May 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The approval of the May 25, 2021, meeting minutes was tabled to the next meeting, as there was not a quorum present.

III. EMS Budget Proposal

Chief Lewis said every year PCFD goes to a budget committee at Summit County and presents a budget proposal for the next year. Last year, in addition to funds requested to maintain current operations, we asked for additional money for the fleet management plan to purchase ambulances. The same budget amount (\$180K) has been requested for at least the last five years to buy an ambulance. Costs for apparatus continue to rise, and Chief Lewis said there will most likely be an increase requested in this area.

The base budget in 2021 for personnel was \$754K. The budgets for PCFD and Summit County EMS overlap sometimes because we use some personnel for PCFD functions as well as for Summit County EMS functions. The Summit County EMS Coordinator, CPR classes, and standbys are examples of this. This can make the budget for Summit County EMS higher than what it appears on paper.

Chief Lewis said we will be asking for \$213K more in 2022. This increase is due to challenges in staffing a part-time system with a high turn-over rate and finding local community members who can afford to live in our communities and work in a part-time system. Many agencies are struggling to retain employees right now. In May a decision was made to take the salary for the EMS Coordinator, who retired, and push it to 4 full-time employees. This will allow us to staff stations on a more consistent basis with full-time employees.

Chief Lewis said one of the bigger challenges we found is the way the shifts are scheduled. Four full-time employees working four 12-hour shifts from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm would be the most beneficial; however, it can be difficult for people who are traveling from distant locations to Summit County. He said he believes this is one of the reasons we lost one of the full-time EMTs we had hired. Consequently, the shifts were switched to three 12-hour shifts in a 36-hour cycle, so employees would come in for a full 36 hours. This decreases the amount of travel time for the employee.

Chief Lewis said he is hopeful we can staff more people with the budget request that will be presented to the council. The \$213K request includes up to 6 full-time EMTs working a 36-hour schedule each week, increasing the part-time EMT wage from \$13 to \$15 an hour, and hiring a full-time EMS Coordinator.

Chief Anderson asked whether the 36-hour schedule meant employees would be leaving in the middle of the day or night, and Chief Lewis replied the shifts are set to start at 7:00 am or 7:00 pm, so an employee who started at 7:00 am on one day would get off at 7:00 pm the following day. Chief Lewis said there are some exceptions for full-time firefighters versus full-time EMTs. There is an exemption called the 7K exemption that allows full-time firefighters to work more hours than a full-time EMT. Under this exemption, full-time EMTs incur overtime after 40 hours.

Chief Anderson asked if the money being requested will go strictly to the ambulance service, and Chief Lewis replied the focus here is for North and South Summit. Chief Anderson said South Summit Fire has experienced a considerable increase in expenses and asked if there is anything in the budget set aside to reimburse expenses they have incurred due to EMS. Chief Lewis replied there currently is not, but discussions can be held to determine what would be appropriate.

Deputy County Manager Young commented the new law that was passed has complicated things because now the cities and the counties are responsible for EMS service. The interlocal agreements will need to be reviewed to determine what needs to be done to come into compliance. The licensing component is also another factor, and currently the County holds the license. She said the structure under the new law will need to be determined before staffing and payment issues can be worked out.

Mayor McCormick commented there is a bigger discussion to be had and it may not be resolved in a timely enough manner for South Summit Fire to be compensated for some of the staff augmentation that has happened. He said the issue may need to be addressed in several phases. Deputy County Manager Young said if we are asking the fire districts to respond with medical and an agreement is reached stating districts should be compensated for that time, it seems that issue would fall under a separate agreement based on the overall structure. Mayor McCormick commented where North Summit fire is a County organization, South Summit Fire is independent and it complicates issues a bit, but the conversation still needs to be held.

Chief Hewitt asked Deputy County Manager Young if it would be appropriate for Chief Anderson to submit documentation of the added costs to South Summit Fire, and Deputy County Manager Young replied we would need to determine who the documentation would need to be submitted to under the new structure. Mayor McCormick clarified the costs he is talking about are for the past few months South Summit Fire has been responding on medical calls, and so the reimbursement they are seeking is retroactive under the current system.

Chief Hewitt asked Chief Anderson if South Summit Fire had been responding to medical calls prior to the last few months, and Chief Anderson replied they had been responding to auto accidents and traumatic injuries that were more serious in nature, and they only began responding to individual homes and health clinics in the past few months. Chief Hewitt asked where the money came from for the last decade for South Summit Fire to respond to medical calls, and Chief Anderson replied it came from South Summit Fire's regular budget. Chief Hewitt commented in systems like this where there are separate fire and EMS agencies, fire does respond on the majority of medical calls. Chief Lewis agreed and said some of this was identified in the analysis of different Utah agencies conducted last year, and we could reach back to Wasatch County and others to see how their fire responds with EMS and if they are compensated for it.

Mayor McCormick said the issue he is concerned with is the point at which PCFD asked South Summit Fire to respond to more medical calls several months ago until now and the increased expenses that have been incurred by South Summit Fire during that timeframe. He would like to know how the extra response will be compensated for. Chief Anderson said when the staffing was changed from three EMTs on the ambulance to two and South Summit Fire started responding on the majority of calls, it included increased costs including fuel and supplies among other things.

He said personnel are also going to EMT school to become better prepared to respond to medical calls, and all these costs were not expected or budgeted before.

Deputy County Manager Young said it would be helpful to have numbers and a magnitude of timeframes or calls related specifically to the increased response, and Chief Anderson replied he has a list of costs. Chief Anderson said they already had some of the supplies on the list, but with the increased response they are using them at a much faster rate.

May McCormick said there are basically two issues to discuss: reimbursement for costs incurred from the point PCFD asked South Summit Fire to respond to medical calls to now, and how reimbursement would be handled under the new law and EMS structure of the County moving forward. Deputy County Manager Young replied there needs to be a separate conversation on the South Summit reimbursement issue, and Chief Hewitt said a meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks with Deputy County Manager Young, Chief Anderson, Mayor McCormick, Chief Lewis, and himself to discuss this issue before the next Summit County EMS Board meeting.

IV. Call Statistics

Chief Lewis said he will have a new monthly report out soon. There has been an increase in calls in June.

V. Other Updates

There were no other updates to be discussed.

VI. Public Input

There was no one from the public attending.

VII. Discussion of Possible Future Agenda Items/Additional Comments

A discussion on the EMS budget will be held at the next meeting, and Deputy County Manager Young said Deputy Attorney Brackin should attend the next meeting to discuss the structure of the EMS program moving forward and changes we need to make under HB303. The next Board meeting will be scheduled after the South Summit budget discussion with the members identified earlier has been held.

VIII. Adjournment

Chief Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Chief Hewitt. The meeting of the Summit County EMS Board adjourned at 2:48 p.m.