



20 April 2023

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
18 APRIL 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

EMSAB Members:	Dave Chenault	Laura Gifford	Mike Larson
	Mary Egeland	Jennifer Grinage	Serena Tschirgi

EMSAB members, with the exception of Mary Egeland attended the April 18 meeting in the LFD Station 1 Training Room at 12:07 p.m. Dave Chenault and Jennifer Grinage attended via Zoom. Also present were Staff Liaison Greg Rightmier, Fire Chief Travis Myklebust, Council Liaison Kassee Forsmann, Ambulance Billing Assistant Amy Paris and Fire Department Assistants Danel Arnzen and Stephanie Rudy, who took notes.

Old Business:

- Tschirgi made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes; the motion was seconded by Gifford and approved by the board.

New Business:

- Ambulance Billing Assistant Amy Paris updated the board on the department's new ambulance billing company requirements. Currently, charges for equipment used are bundled into the total invoice. EMS MC has not been billing for equipment used since Medicare will not increase their reimbursement for them anyway. Ambulance billing will work with the billing company towards a resolution. The department may have to average out cost of items and/or break out into levels. Private insurance companies will reimburse these costs and some companies even require these charges to be separated out.
- Ambulance rates were last updated through Resolution 2022-28 with an increase of 2% across the board. The EMSAB had discussed at that time to increase by 2% again in FY 2024. Tschirgi moved to increase all ambulance rates by 2% in FY 2024; the motion was seconded by Gifford and approved by the board.
- Due to a grant, Clarkston now has a community paramedic program in place. Clarkston Fire Chief Darren White has reported the program is going very well. This person will work closely with the hospitals to advocate for patients. Gifford will check with SJRMC to see if a community paramedic might be an option in the future. Medicare's recent data collection requirement may help to define whether there is more need for a social worker or a community paramedic.
- Engineer/Paramedic Cody Anderson has been tasked with developing a paramedic task book based on the current EMS protocols. This will be the bridge between a newly certified paramedic and an independent practicing paramedic. Once the task book is complete, the newly certified medic will undergo a final test in front of a panel made up of the training chief, medical director and the paramedic FTO.

Other Business:

- Staff Liaison Rightmier reported recent interviews for a new fire chief were unsuccessful so the search continues. Timeline for a new chief to be hired is unknown. As deputy chief, Staff Liaison Rightmier will be interim fire chief until a new chief is selected and in position.
- The ambulance spec committee traveled to Chehalis, WA for a pre-build review of our newest ambulance. This gas-powered vehicle won't be ready until June 2024. Current units will have to be moved around to balance mileage due to the length of time until the new vehicle is in service. Tschirgi asked about the possibility of electric ambulances. Staff Liaison Rightmier commented larger departments are already using these but they would not be practical in our area due to the number of square miles we cover and the fact that the area has no infrastructure in place.
- Councilor Forsmann wondered if a fire department citizen academy was a possibility. Past councils did not allow this because it would be a significant increase to the budget. Community outreach is part of the department's strategic plan and has been a goal for many years. The fire operations training and ride-alongs are available for council members.
- Fire Chief Myklebust thanked the board for their service as this meeting was his last due to his retirement on May 31. A retirement celebration is scheduled for June 2.
- The board discussed private ambulance companies providing transports initiated within the city. Staff Liaison Rightmier is in the process of educating care facilities and hospitals on what these companies can legally provide. The Lewiston Fire Department's Certificate of Compliance allows for emergency and non-emergency care to Lewiston residents. Deciding what the best service model will be for our citizens going forward will be up to the new chief.

Tschirgi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:07 p.m.; Gifford seconded the motion and it was approved by the board.

**NEXT EMSAB MEETING IS TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023 AT 12:00 PM
IN THE STATION 1 TRAINING ROOM**

Submitted by: 	<u>4/26/23</u>
Gregory V. Rightmier, Staff Liaison	Date
	<u>4/27/23</u>
Stephanie Rudy, Recording Secretary	Date

GVR: sr

c: Kari Ravencroft, City Clerk
Dan Johnson, Mayor
Kassee Forsmann, Council Liaison
Kayla Hermann, City Attorney