

Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Fire/EMS Study Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2023
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Chair John Peters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Chair John Peters; Vice-Chair Dave Nelson (arrived at 10:02 a.m.); County Representatives Director-Public Works Richard Hough and County Board Supervisor Ken Monroe (Alternate); Local Representatives Joe DeGaro, Theresa Loomer, and Brian Wilson; and Non-voting Emergency Medical Director Andrew L. Aswegan, MD. Chief Fred Schalow (Alternate), Chief Bruce Vander Veen, and Dr. Mitchell Lee Sheley were absent. There is one vacant position. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance

County Board Supervisors: Al Stanek.

County Staff: Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Luberda and Walworth County Captain-Support Services Todd Neumann.

On motion by Hough, second by DeGaro, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Wilson, second by DeGaro, the November 17, 2022 Fire/EMS Study Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Vice-Chair Chief Dave Nelson arrived at 10:02 a.m.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

7a. Discussion with Captain Todd Neumann, Walworth County Sheriff's Office, on changes and anticipated changes to dispatching roles, services, and capabilities since the November 25, 2019 meeting

Walworth County Captain-Support Services Todd Neumann provided the presentation: Walworth County Communications Center-A Review of How the Communications Center has and is Working to Meet the Needs of Walworth County as related to the 2019 EMS Study Committee; detailing:

- Communications Comparison March 2020 to January 2023
- Law Enforcement & Fire/EMS Call Volume
- Radio & Phone System Volume
- Summary Recommendations

Captain Neumann briefed the Committee relative to challenges the Communications Department is facing; including: staff vacancies; space restrictions; inefficiencies in call taking and dispatching; lack of integrated emergency dispatching; and required ongoing training relative to Next Generation 9-1-1.

Supervisor Stanek informed the Committee of previously allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that is now available for re-allocation; stating those funds may be able to assist with emergency medical systems, but a recommendation from the Committee is required. Supervisor Stanek reiterated his proposal to spend \$20,000 in ARPA funding to hire consultant to perform a study to gather information relative to Fire/EMS services in Walworth County; reminding the Committee that their recommendation is required to sanction such a study.

Director-Public Works Richard Hough suggested the Committee assess short, mid, and long-term challenges needing to be addressed. Chair Peters requested Captain Neumann provide a short and long-term plan for Communications, including requests as to how the Fire/EMS Committee can assist with funding options and recommendations.

Luberda cautioned the Committee to not limit their recommendations to dispatch, but to consider delivery options for Fire/EMS services as well. Discussion then focused on topics the Committee would not want addressed in a study, such as dispatch, technology, and staffing.

Discussion ensued relative to the timeframe necessary for Captain Neumann to present a strategic plan. Luberda stated that, absent any other direction from this Committee, he will work with Captain Neumann to develop a draft plan to present in a two month timeframe; leaving the possibility for the Committee to meet in a month's time to discuss recommendations for a study.

7b. Consideration of and discussion on the purpose, past efforts, and future direction of the Fire/EMS Study Committee, including, but not limited to: the development; changes in municipal Fire/EMS services since the last meeting; and, the potential for support from consulting services to examine improving EMS services within Walworth County

7c. Topics for next meeting

Supervisor Stanek implored the Committee to make haste in recommending funds be spent on a study of Fire/EMS services in Walworth County.

Confirmation of next meeting date and time: The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

On motion and second by County Board Supervisor Monroe and Vice-Chair Nelson, Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.