

Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee
March 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes
County Board Room 114, Walworth County Government Center
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Peters at 2:01 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Vice Chair John Peters, Dave Nelson, Denise Pieroni, Bruce Vander Veen, James Weiss, and County Board Supervisor Ken Monroe. Lowell Hagen was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others present: Dr. Steven Andrews-Aurora Health Care; Dr. James MacNeal-Mercy Health (2:26 p.m.); Walworth County Administrator David Bretl; County Board Chair Nancy Russell; Rebecca LeMire, Village of Darien Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Public comment – There was none.

Special Order of Business

- Nominations and election of Chair of Fire/EMS Study Committee

Administrator Bretl announced that Dale Wilson has found a new position outside of the County, and as such a new Chair and Vice Chair need to be elected. He opened the floor for nominations for the Fire/EMS Study Committee Chair. **Denise Pieroni made a motion, seconded by James Weiss, to nominate John Peters for Fire/EMS Study Committee Chair. Motion carried 6-0.** Bretl asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. **Bruce Vander Veen made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to elect John Peters as Fire/EMS Study Committee Chair. Motion carried 6-0.**

- Nominations and election of Vice Chair of Fire/EMS Study Committee

Bretl opened the floor for nominations for the Fire/EMS Study Committee Vice Chair. **Vander Veen made a motion, seconded by Weiss, to nominate Dave Nelson for Fire/EMS Study Committee Vice Chair. Motion carried 6-0.** Bretl asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed. **Weiss made a motion, seconded by Pieroni, to elect Dave Nelson as Fire/EMS Study Committee Vice Chair. Motion carried 6-0.**

Weiss made a motion, seconded by Vander Veen, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Vice Chair Nelson made a motion, seconded by Pieroni, to approve the November 30, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- Discussion of presentation for Intergovernmental Cooperation Council Meeting

Bretl distributed the proposed agenda for the upcoming Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) meeting. The ICC meets once every four months and includes officials from local municipalities. The meeting on March 26th will discuss Fire/EMS in the County. He asked for volunteers who would like to assist in making a presentation to ICC about this committee's progress. Bretl welcomed input on what to place on the agenda to help discuss fire and EMS operations. Vander Veen asked if a summary of the survey results would be helpful. Peters said the agenda is well put together and suggested highlighting key points, such as the expectations for service, FPA requirements, how soon service is expected, etc. He added there should be an open and honest discussion regarding how things are going in each community

by the leaders. Vander Veen has heard that some municipalities believe the County is going to solve the issues, but they need to know it is at the municipality level of responsibility as well. Bretl said a definition of terms would be important and Chair Peters agreed to discuss the Fire side of things. Bretl said discussion of all the levels of service models would be helpful. Chair Peters, Vice Chair Nelson, Vander Veen, and Pieroni confirmed they will attend and present information with Bretl. Bretl said the discussion of draft recommendations is important as it shows what this committee has been working towards. Pieroni said a panel idea of presentation would be the best format and all agreed. Chair Peters suggested a PowerPoint presentation including important definitions. Bretl said his office will create a PowerPoint for members of the Committee to add information to. Monroe suggested sending out an email to the different municipal departments to try to get the most input from local departments.

- Discussion regarding upcoming presentation by North Shore Fire Department

The North Shore Fire Department offered April 17th or 29th as possible dates to present. The presentation was set for Wednesday April 17th at 10:00 a.m. in County Board Room 114.

- Update regarding obtaining response times from Pro Phoenix

Vander Veen said the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee discussed this at their first meeting and it is also on the agenda for their March 26th meeting. Chair Peters said he has a meeting scheduled with Captain Green at the Sheriff's Office but was unsure how the sought-after data could be mined. A lot of the information is entered by the dispatchers, so it would be very labor-intensive to retrieve. Vander Veen said the majority of the times are entered into a notes field, often after the fact, making it very difficult to get this data into one document. The Advisory Committee will dig deeper into this issue as they continue meeting. Pieroni inquired if it would be easier to gather data if we had the fire module software. Chair Peters said the Sheriff is willing to support the software, but there are budget concerns, as the fire portion is not included in the current budget. Bretl asked if the data we are looking for would be helpful and Vander Veen noted it may not be the data that is needed, but rather an overhaul of the system. Bretl said it is possible to add this into the County budget but data would not be compiled until next year. He suggested the wording in the "Recommendations of the Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee" document be changed to more strongly encourage departments to budget for ProPhoenix. Peters said the benefits are multi-faceted and would help the individual departments make operations more efficient with less work and radio traffic. He added there needs to be some ownership from the Fire departments as well. Bretl noted the County budget process is in July and inquired if this committee can accomplish anything further until that data can be acquired. Peters said it is important to discuss with local leadership so they understand the need.

- Topics for next meeting

- Discuss changes to the "Recommendations" document
- Forward the ProPhoenix issue to the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee for discussion, along with a recommendation
- Possible field trips/speakers/dispatch centers for future meetings
- Have a speaker from a county who has County-supported ALS services. Pieroni suggested a trip to Waukesha County Dispatch to gain ideas/pros and cons

Public comment – Nancy Russell said she was asked by Gateway Technical College to participate in their Fire/EMS advisory committee and she wondered if it would be helpful for someone from this group to come to the meeting. If so, she will get in touch with them to see if they are interested.

Bretl suggested the Committee consider membership changes in the future for any members not regularly attending meetings.

Next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 114 of the Walworth County Government Center.

Adjournment

On motion by Pieroni, seconded by Vice Chair Nelson, Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.