

Walworth County Fire/EMS Study Committee
April 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes
County Board Room 114, Walworth County Government Center
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Peters at 10:07 a.m.

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

Others present: Dr. Steven Andrews-Aurora Health Care; Walworth County Administrator David Bretl; Robert Whitaker, North Shore Fire Department Chief

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

Vice Chair Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bruce Vander Veen, to approve the March 22, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public comment – There was none.

Unfinished Business

- Follow-up on speakers for consolidated dispatch

The Committee will invite Mr. Richard Tuma to attend the next meeting to discuss Dispatch Centers. Peters suggested a date also be set to tour the Waukesha County Dispatch Center.

New Business

- Presentation by the North Shore Fire Department

Robert Whitaker introduced himself as the Chief at North Shore Fire Department. He discussed the creation of the North Shore Fire Department in 1995 and the challenges that were present before, during and after the transition from multiple volunteer departments to a consolidated department. He emphasized the need for elected officials in the area to be supportive of consolidation in order for it to be successful, and also keep the public informed as to the changes and decisions being made. He also stated it is important to have only one Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to improve communication and limit confusion. He said compromise between all those involved in the consolidation process is the most important element for success. Discussion ensued.

- Discuss changes to the “Recommendations” document

Chair Peters said this topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

- Forward the ProPhoenix issue to the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee for discussion, along with a recommendation

Chair Peters said members voted unanimously in favor of acquiring ProPhoenix access at the last MABAS Division 103 meeting. They will draft a letter to the Sheriff encouraging implementation. This item will continue to be discussed at the Walworth County Emergency Communications Advisory Committee and will possibly be included in the 2020 County budget.

- Possible field trips/speakers/dispatch centers for future meetings

Bretl confirmed there will be a speaker from Gateway Technical College at the May meeting.

- Possible speaker at a future meeting from a County that has County-supported ALS services
Members will look into which counties in Wisconsin have county-supported ALS services and possible speakers. Vander Veen said he will contact the Chief in Baraboo to speak at a future meeting.

- Topics for next meeting

The following items were set to be discussed at the May meeting:

- Richard Tuma
- Gateway Speaker
- Schedule a field trip to Waukesha County

Public comment – There was none.

Next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 114 of the Walworth County Government Center.

Adjournment

On motion by Bruce Vander Veen, seconded by Denise Pieroni, Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.