

Bayfield County Clerk

Lynn M. Divine, *County Clerk*

Kim Mattson, *Accountant*
Gail M. Reha, *Bookkeeper*

Jeran Delaine, *Deputy Clerk*
Paige Terry, *Clerk III*



Ph: 715.373.6100 • Fx: 715.373.6153 • Email: Lynn.Divine@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov • 117 E. Fifth Street, PO Box 878, Washburn, WI 54891

Minutes of the:
Bayfield County Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee
April 25, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Held in the County Board Room, Courthouse Building, Washburn, WI
& Remotely

The meeting of the Bayfield County Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by *Committee Chair*, Steve Sandstrom.

Members Present: Larry Fickbohm, Steve Sandstrom, David Larson, Brett Frierhood, Lyn Cornelius, Rob Puls, Jan Victorson, Sandy Raspotnik, Dan Vaillancourt, Eric Neff, Colleen Beagan, David Trudeau

Alternates Present: Beverly Steele, Clyde Clauson, and Tam Hofman

Members Excused: Michael Lang, Scott Kluver, and Gary Victorson

Other members present: *County Administrator*-Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Clerk*-Lynn Divine virtually, *Emergency Management Director*-Meagan Quaderer virtually, *Northwood Technical College Dean of Academic Programs*-Karen Hoglund, *Northwood Technical College Training Coordinator*-Tom Renz, *Regional EMS Coordinator for WI*-Don Kimlicka, *Iron River EMS Finance Officer*-Adam Olson, *Ashland Fire Service Director*-Chris Pribek, *Washburn Ambulance Service Director*-Jeff Bellile, and *Clerk III*-Paige Terry virtually

Item 3. Introductions of Guests and Committee Members: Introductions of the attendees were as follows:

Karen Hoglund – Dean of the Academic Programs for Northwood Technical College
Tom Renz – Training Coordinator for Northwood Technical College
Don Kimlicka – Regional EMS Coordinator for WI for the Bayfield County Region
Adam Olson – Finance Officer for Iron River EMS
Chris Pribek – Service Director for Ashland Fire
Clyde Clauson – Alternate Committee Member
Bev Steele – Alternate Committee Member
Tam Hofman – EMS Council President
Rob Puls – Great Divide Ambulance Service Representative
Jeff Bellile – Director for Washburn Ambulance Service
Colleen Beagan – Representative for the City of Bayfield

Item 4. Public Comment: None.

Item 5. Discussion and Possible Action, Minutes from the February 28, 2022 Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee Meeting: *Motion by Fickbohm, seconded by Cornelius to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Bayfield County Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 28, 2022. Motion carried.*

Item 6. Chair Overview and Recap of Advisory Committee Purpose and Calendar Plans:

Chairman Sandstrom reviewed the purpose of the committee with the attendees.

Item 7. Presentation and Discussion of Subcommittee Findings & Reports, identify questions

and/or concerns: Frierhood reviewed the report prepared by the staffing subcommittee which focused on two major topic issues, staff burnout and incentives to encourage new volunteers. The subcommittee proposed requiring mandatory counseling after each critical call/event as a solution to staff burnout and increasing on-call wages to \$5 per hour to incentivize new volunteers. Cornelius explained that an additional solution to combat staff burnout would be some PSA assistance from Bayfield County to educate the general public on what constitutes a true emergency. Abeles-Allison informed the committee that the county currently utilizes Sandcreek for an Employee Assistance Program and explained how and EAP may be useful for EMS staff members. Discussion took place regarding the criteria for a “critical call/event” and the two solutions proposed by the staffing sub-committee. Sandstrom suggested adding to the subcommittee’s report to include a sentence referencing overuse of the emergency 9-1-1 call system leading to employee burnout. The committee discussed educating the general public on what constitutes an emergent situation. Multiple committee members spoke against increasing the hourly on-call wage as it would be detrimental to the smaller towns that have fewer monetary resources available. *Chairman* Sandstrom suggested adding a condition that additional funding to increase staff wages should not come from the municipal level but rather from the State level to the report. Regional EMS Coordinator for Wisconsin, Don Kimlicka reviewed with the committee how listing EMS as an essential service could impact the state. Kimlicka suggested continuing the committee past the established date and maintain the committee as a long-term committee. The committee discussed forwarding the discussed issues to the WCA for representative with State Legislature.

Victorson spoke on behalf of the legislative issues subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed the following issues: cross-credentialing, reciprocity of EMT training from other states, the process for medical professionals to serve as EMR/EMTs, EMR/EMT training, equipment expenses, additional funding options, and making EMS an essential service. On the topic of additional funding options, Victorson proposed the following solutions: an additionally County-wide sales tax to fund EMS county-wide, establish a \$1 fee for each recreational vehicle registration, establish a program for businesses to collect a voluntary contribution for EMS, and collect data documenting responses for patient as resident or visitor to document need for tourist and seasonal resident revenue resources. Discussion took place regarding the process of an RN becoming an EMR/EMT. Kimlicka informed the committee that there is no formal procedure required for an RN to become an EMR/EMT. The committee discussed each of the topics proposed by the committee.

Cornelius spoke on behalf of the training implementation subcommittee. Cornelius reviewed the following incentives to encourage new volunteers: complete reimbursements to staff for classes, testing fees, and required expenses to become certified and to require candidates/students to sign a contract that would allow outstanding balances to be sent to collections if they are not paid. The subcommittee also researched training opportunities and suggested that Northwoods Technical College be contacted to make some changes to their current curriculum in regard to training EMR/EMTs. Karen Hوجلund and Tom Renz reviewed the current curriculum utilized by Northwood Technical College for educating EMR/EMTs.

No decision was made to pursue any of the proposed solutions.

Item 8. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Final Report format: *Chairman* Sandstrom advised the subcommittees to review their reports and add the topics that were discussed during the meeting to the reports. Emergency Management Director, Meagan Quaderer, suggested allowing time for the subcommittees to meet again and review/revise their reports before deciding on a final report format.

Item 9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Next Steps: It was decided that each subcommittee would meet again by May 20, 2022, to review and refine each of the submitted reports to ensure they cover all necessary details and follow a uniform format. The final reports would be reviewed at the final EMS Advisory Committee meeting before being presented to the full County Board.

Item 10. Discussion Regarding Future Meeting Dates:

- a) Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Item 11. Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss, *Chairman Sandstrom adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.*

Sincerely,

LYNN M. DIVINE
Bayfield County Clerk
LMD/pat