

SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 1
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Frank Wilson Memorial EMS Building, 1079 Spring Street
Wednesday June 24, 2020
Held Remotely under COVID-19 Rules

SJCPHD #1 Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Everett Clary
Commissioner Anna Lisa Lindstrum
Commissioner Trish Lehman
Commissioner Gail Leschine-Seitz
Commissioner Kyle Loring

Others Present:

Pamela Hutchins
Superintendent, SJCPHD #1

Karl Kuetzing
Interim Chief Administrator, SJIEMS

By Phone: None

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Anna Lisa Lindstrum called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in a fully remote MS Teams meeting, with the public participating via phone. Governor Inslee's order, Proclamation 20-28, issued March 24, 2020 and extended several times, temporarily prohibits public agencies from conducting any in-person meetings and requires all remote meetings to provide an option for public attendance via remote access. Roll call was made verbally of each commissioner for the benefit of the public. The meeting was still recorded, and audio made available to the public as with all meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA: June 24, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda, May 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, SJCPHD #1 Warrant Approval, SJIEMS Warrant Approval.

- SJCPHD#1 Warrants
 - Payroll total \$ 0.00
 - A/P Warrants total \$ 17,162.07
- SJIEMS Warrants
 - Payroll total \$ 98,015.83
 - A/P Warrants total \$ 28,801.16

- **ACTION: Commissioner Lehman moved, and Commissioner Leschine-Seitz seconded, that the Board amend the minutes per Kyle Loring's edits.**
- **ACTION: Commissioner Lehman moved, and Commissioner Leschine-Seitz seconded that the Board approve the Consent Agenda with the amendments to the minutes. ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES.**

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Mount Baker Planned Parenthood Subsidy Report, Linda McCarthy Executive Director: McCarthy made a presentation from a prepared report which was filed with the hospital district and posted on the website.

ACTION: Commissioner Loring moved, and Commissioner Lehman seconded, that the Board send the biannual payment of \$20,000 to Mount Baker Planned Parenthood per the District's contract with them. ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (15 Minute Limit total; comments max 3 minutes per person):

Board Recording Secretary Nathan Butler read the first three minutes of a letter from Dan Paulson per Paulson's request (see below for full text). There were no other comments.

SJCPHD#1 OPERATIONS REPORT: Pamela Hutchins, Superintendent: Hutchins reported on May 2020 for both Operations and Finances. Property tax receipts have stabilized for the time being, with receipts up 3% over 2019. It has been an adjustment holding meetings during the COVID-19 crisis, but the District has been working to communicate clearly with the public to ensure that they may participate if desired. The District has begun a strategic planning process to refine its mission, vision, and values.

SJIEMS OPERATIONS REPORT: Karl Kuetzing, Interim EMS Chief: Kuetzing reported for May 2020. Kuetzing reported a 12% decrease in calls over the same period in 2019. Response times continue to be robust, showing the advantages that the 24/7 staffing model has offered. Outreach programs are paused, though community paramedicine is not. A new organizational chart was presented for review later in the Board meeting. ALS protocols are expected to be in place by 2020, but the District's Supervising Physician, Dr. Joshua Corsa, will be deploying with his military unit from August to December 2020. He will be able to do some of his work remotely and will be coordinating with leadership and other doctors to fill in any gaps. In finances, revenue exceeded expenses, and cash & reserves continue to be strong.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Committee Reports and discussion: Chief Kuetzing reported on his meeting with Dr. Corsa, and Chair Lindstrum reported on her talk with Bob Jarman. No other reports.

Discussion of Integration of EMS and Fire: The Board discussed their concerns with a recent article and interview with Fire Chief Norvin Collins and PIO Chuck Dalldorf. Commissioner Loring stated, "This seems to be part of a public relations campaign," and introduced a letter that he had written. Hospital District commissioners expressed support for that letter. Commissioner Lehman added, "[the article] undermines EMS and it

undermines the public hospital district." Chair Lindstrum said, "we've tried to walk the higher path... but we're getting beat up [in the press]." The Board discussed whether it should respond officially.

Preparation for Strategic Planning: Two dates for strategic planning are set for July 2020. There will be homework for the commissioners to do, which consultant Daphne Schneider will send out later. Commissioner Lehman explained that this was not for EMS or integration planning, "I want to make very clear that this is for the public hospital district."

Review approval of organization chart for SJIEMS: Chief Kuetzing explained and introduced his new proposed organizational chart. Commissioners asked questions.

ACTION: Commissioner Lehman moved, and Commissioner Loring seconded, that the Board approve the new organizational chart. ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES.

NEW BUSINESS

Spending of 3rd Amendment subsidy monies: Chair Lindstrum introduced the background to the 3rd Amendment subsidy: PeaceHealth Peace Island Medical Center returns money to the District for services that they do not provide. Originally, this was \$50,000 per year, and this year was increased to \$55,000. The Board discussed how to use the new money. Several commissioners discussed bringing that work to strategic planning for discussion.

Review approval for deployment model workgroup participation: The Fire District had invited the hospital district to participate in a deployment model workgroup. The Board asked Karl to request that the Board have a chance to meet with the Fire District first in a joint meeting, as it seems related to integration.

Keeping Board meetings safe going forward: Butler made a short report on how to keep meetings safe if required to hold meetings in person.

Res 20-524 Surplus of Ford F-150 Pickup Truck: The EMS Chief's vehicle has reached the end of its lifespan.

ACTION: Commissioner Loring moved, and Commissioner Lehman seconded, that the Board adopt Resolution 20-524 to Surplus of Ford F-150 Pickup Truck. ALL AYES; RESOLUTION 20-524 IS ADOPTED.

DRAFT

From: [Dan Paulson](#)
To: [Anna Lisa Lindstrom](#); [Trish Lehman](#); [Kyle Loring](#); [Everett Gary](#); [Gail Leschine-Seltz](#); [Pamela Hutchins](#); [Nathan Butler](#)
Subject: PHD board issues
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:45:46 AM

Dear Board members,

You have now agreed to hire another consultant to study another plan, further delaying the process of integration with Fire. I believe this is completely unnecessary, a waste of time and taxpayers money and another step in avoiding the work and effort needed to continue with the process.

I have heard the following concerns from several of you as cause for you halting the integration process and offer the following observations;

1- A few of you stated that SJFD will have to take over the current EMS building liability as well as the impending lawsuit. Before you make public statements and demands, or use this as an excuse to halt the integration process, you should check with your attorney on these two items. My understanding is that 1) you are responsible for EMS, the lawsuit was initiated under the PHD's oversight of EMS and therefore, PHD is responsible. I don't see how this legal action could be transferred to another entity and therefore should not be a factor in halting the integration process. (Previously, attorney Richard Davis told the board that the lawsuit is not transferrable). 2) You are responsible for the current EMS building, as well as the land, unless you (PHD) legally sell this asset to SJFD. The CAG group never expected the Fire District to want this building. The logical approach would be for PHD to sell the building and land to Peace Island hospital, which is already short of space.

2- Another stated reason for you dropping the integration process was that you were not receiving combined projected EMS/Fire budgets, going out three years. Yet, the PHD board has never had a long range EMS budget going out 3 years. Did you provide written documentation for this? Did you consult with the Fire Commissioners? The budgets are all county records and you can simply get these on line. The integrated EMS/Fire budget is primarily a Fire District issue.

3- 5 vs 3 person board. As a CAG member, I was involved with this recommendation and the intent of this was to attempt to have an EMS or emergency MD person on board. By law, this cannot be mandated and you are well aware that with your 5 person PHD board, you don't have a single person with this qualification. After careful consideration and further conversations with other agencies, I no longer feel this is necessary nor required. Other CAG members I have spoke with feel the same. Our own county government elected to reduce to a three member board, and all other EMS/Fire agencies run with a three member board. All of this was researched and documented as part of the Steering Committee with Commissioners Smith (EMS) and Cardinale (FD). They made the recommendation to stay at 3 with a future possibility of increasing if needed at a later point. This also produces better transparency and does not allow for for two board members to privately meet. This again is not a valid reason to halt the integration process.

Your first order of business should be to jointly meet in person with all of the fire commissioners. The Fire District has the appropriate space for this. This will alleviate many of the "unsubstantiated concerns" you may have and making statements about or posing questions to the FD without talking to them. The FD has always been available for discussions and open communication. Keep in mind that Chief Collins is accountable to the three Fire Commissioners and cannot respond directly to the PHD board. If you have a request, go through the proper channels. You must also produce accurate and accountable documented requests in an organized manner. Simply verbalizing a request in a committee meeting is not good enough.

I am concerned with the PHD board process. Besides the points made above, if you are going to make changes to the website (i.e., deleting CAG and integration public information), this has to be approved by the entire board. One member cannot make these decisions on their own. And all communication from the EMS staff must be conducted in a professional manner and run through the EMS Chief.

Your first and primary duty is to provide the best healthcare to patients in a timely manner. If you have response times on our small island of up to 20 minutes (even in town), do not require paramedics to reside in house (adding at least 5 minutes to most calls) and the paramedic does not have to be out of their home door for 7 minutes to respond, you are seriously compromising the community you serve. The budget and tax levy to run the EMS system on our island is far greater than the average throughout the state.

I am also surprised that, after six months in office, you have not reached out to EMS and Fire agencies on the mainland that have gone through a similar process. I can provide you with contacts. This is productive work that can easily be done during Covid restraints. Covid should actually build the case to streamline to get things done and create stability for the community.

Once again, I ask all of you to remain on task and proceed in an organized and transparent manner with the process of merging EMS with Fire. Our community deserves this. If you, as a board, do not wish to proceed with the integration (which was unanimously agreed to by all commissioners from both Fire and EMS) then be honest and say so. The points raised above are merely discussion points for the integration process and the steering committee simply has to deal with them.

Dan Paulson

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