

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT #2 BOARD  
JANUARY 27, 2009  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Clark County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Mielke and Boldt, Chair, present. Commissioner Stuart absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Mielke to approve the minutes of April 29, 2008. Board members Boldt and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

EXTRAORDINARY COST INCREASE ('04 – '08)

*Doug Smith-Lee*, EMS Manager, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency, presented. Mr. Smith-Lee stated that on behalf of the EMS District #2 Board, as well as the participating jurisdictions, CRESA oversees the ambulance contract currently awarded to American Medical Response (AMR). He said the current contract was initiated in 2004 and is due to expire in 2010, with the exception of earned extensions that may be awarded based on superior performance. He stated that they've been operating under the performance-based ambulance contract since 1992 and the EMS District #2 Board is the policy board that oversees the contract. There's also a working advisory board, the EMS Administrative Board, and they are recommending an extraordinary cost increase to AMR's Average Patient Charge and Maximum Mileage Charge.

Smith-Lee stated that last spring AMR requested this cost increase due to the spike in fuel costs, as well as administrative fee costs. The contract has a provision that allows for extraordinary cost increases that are above the normal operating costs. Basically, they take out any Consumer Price Index from those ordinary costs and then they are allowed 80% of those costs over that. This past summer, the EMS Administrative Board recommended that the EMS District #2 Board approve the increase contingent upon a financial review by a certified public accountant's office. He completed that review in December. Based on the impacts of the costs and the financial review, the EMS Administrative Board was requesting 4.4% increase to the Average Patient Charge (APC) and Maximum Mileage Charge (MMC). He explained that the APC was the total amount billed for any given year divided by the total number of transports and each year a financial review is done to verify whether it has stayed within that target amount. Historically, Smith-Lee said that each year AMR has averaged about a 2% increase to their actual APC and the way they allow for any inflationary increases is typically done through the Consumer Price Index. He stated that this increase is above and beyond that due to increased fuel costs for the period of 2001 through 2008 to help them recoup those increased operating expenses.

*Boldt* asked if AMR has been operating at a loss then.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT #2 BOARD  
JANUARY 27, 2009  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

*Smith-Lee* said that while they aren't in the red, as far as increased operating costs they've been operating at more than what they anticipated. He said they would recoup from the increased charge they estimated based on 12 months worth of transports.

*Boldt* asked if it was based on the \$4 per gallon for fuel that has decreased down to \$2.

*Smith-Lee* said it was based on a 52% increase in fuel operating costs from 2001 through 2008.

*Boldt* asked if it was for fuel only.

*Smith-Lee* said it's also for the administrative fee. He further explained the fee and said it had increased from \$19.50 to \$21.77 last year and they asked for an Extraordinary Cost Increase.

*Mielke* said he also saw a figure of \$28 for administrative fees.

*Smith-Lee* said that was correct. In July 1995 the administrative fee was established at \$28, so it has decreased since then. In 2001 they increased it and that's when his costs were no longer being spread out over emergency management and homeland security, but just EMS.

*Mielke* said regarding the fuel charges they had a similar situation with Washington State Patrol and the ferry system when he was in the legislature and it seems like the period of study always falls short of the downturn in the price. He said gas prices have dropped nearly 50% and he asked if they would get that back in the next year.

*Smith-Lee* said this is for what they have already had to spend and isn't on a go forward basis so they haven't applied for a fuel increase extraordinary cost relief.

*Mielke* said this is a one-time thing.

*Smith-Lee* said yes, unless they see huge spikes in fuels costs again.

There being no further discussion, **MOVED** by Mielke to approve Staff Report 2009-01. Board members Boldt and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT #2 BOARD  
JANUARY 27, 2009  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT #2 BOARD



Marc Boldt, Chair



Steve Stuart, Board Member

Tom Mielke, Board Member

Attest:



Deputy Clerk of the Board

rt