

# ESA March Board Meeting

## MINUTES

MARCH 6, 2013

2:00 P.M.

PIKES PEAK REGIONAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT, 2880  
INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE, COLORADO SPRINGS

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Commander Jim Reid
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Eileen Gonzalez
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Councilman Merv Bennett, Bob Demetry, T. Wayne Florek, Jeffery Force, Jane Fredman, Mayor Jeri Howells, Dr. Julie Kiley, Commissioner Peggy Littleton, William Normile, John Scorsine, Dr. Jack Sharon, Deputy Chief Tommy Smith, Chief Carl Tatum
<b>ABSENT</b>	Commissioner Sallie Clark

Agenda topics

### 1. CHANGES TO AGENDA/POSTPONEMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
None.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
Chief Richard Brown of the Colorado Springs Fire Department delivered a prepared written statement to the board, a copy of which is attached.
Tawnya Silloway reported that AMR had been selected by the Pikes Peak chapter of the American Red Cross for a "Hometown Hero" award. AMR was nominated by Lorin Schroeder, an emergency preparedness officer for Penrose-St. Francis Hospital, for their work evacuating the Mount St. Francis nursing home during the Waldo Canyon Fire in June 2012.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2013

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
None.	
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>
Motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting.	Chief Carl Tatum
Second	Commissioner Peggy Littleton
Approved	Unanimous

### 4.A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
Dr. Sharon reported that the Medical Control Committee met prior to the meeting. They reviewed three patient complaints, one of which did not involve any medical issues but rather an opportunity for improved documentation. The second was closed, and the third was continued pending the receipt of additional information from the contractor and the first responder agency. He noted that the two medical complaints involved a similar concern on the part of the patients, who felt that the contractor should have transported them back to the hospital Code 3 with lights and sirens. However, he noted, generally fewer than 5% of calls in any jurisdiction require a Code 3 return for medical reasons, and that neither of these cases, in the opinion of the physicians on the Medical Control Committee, were of sufficient severity to require a Code 3 return, which can be risky to patients, staff, and the public. They felt that the performance of the contractor's staff in both of those cases was 100% appropriate.

4.B. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2013

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
Wayne Florek presented the treasurer's report for February 2013. He reported that there was no revenue received during the month, and that expenses included regular City salary & benefits, legal expenses, the balance remaining for the consulting agreement with Jon Altmann for his presentation in February, and fourth quarter grant payments. Under "Grant Fund Balance," the report includes a \$2,004 transfer from the grant fund to the RFP Fund based on CPI numbers that were issued in February. He also noted that the 2013 budget amendment was approved by City Council on February 25, and is scheduled to be considered by the Board of County Commissioners on March 12.	
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>
Motion to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2013.	Deputy Chief Tommy Smith
Second	Commissioner Littleton
Approved	Unanimous

5.A. FOURTH QUARTER 2012 GRANT AWARDS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
Chair Reid presented a grant award to the Fountain Fire Department. No representatives of Peyton Fire Protection District or Green Mountain Falls/Chipita Park Fire Department were present.	
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>

5.B. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
After some discussion, the Board directed staff to request City Council's and the Board of County Commissioner's approval for the ESA to spend up to \$50,000 from its RFP fund to contract with an ambulance industry consultant for services relating to developing an RFP for ambulance service in the ESA's jurisdiction that is outside the City of Colorado Springs.	
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>
Motion to request the approval of City Council and Board of County Commissioners to expend up to \$50,000 to retain a consultant to assist the ESA in developing a request for proposals for ambulance service; if the City Council does not to approve such an expenditures on or before April 5, 2013, the motion is to enter into a sole-source contract not to exceed \$24,999 for such services.	John Scorsine
Second	Commissioner Littleton
Approved	Unanimous, with Deputy Chief Tommy Smith and Councilman Merv Bennett abstaining.

5.C. BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
Commissioner Littleton complimented AMR staff on their Hometown Heroes award, and on their professionalism and commitment to the community during the Waldo Canyon Fire.
Dr. Kiley thanked Commissioner Littleton for her comments relating to the importance of regional cooperation during the discussion on Item 5.B., and encouraged everyone at the table to cooperate to make sure the work of the upcoming year results in the best possible solution for the citizens of El Paso County.
Bill Normile noted that, while Chief Brown's statement noted that the City didn't believe that the current structure of the ESA met the needs of the City, he disagreed, and noted that the ESA had had a positive impact on the region's patients and citizens for eighteen years.
Dr. Sharon echoed Mr. Normile's statements, and that he had seen the system work very well over past years.
Mr. Florek noted that it was vitally important that all parties be transparent with each other during the upcoming contracting process, and that they set aside negative and polarized feelings to concentrate on the work ahead.

Mr. Scorsine also echoed Mr. Normile's statement, and noted that the ESA's focus during the remainder of 2013 and into 2014 would be to look out for citizens in the county, and to work collaboratively to build a system that would best provide for all patients.

Commander Reid emphasized that AMR's staff had served the citizens well during their time as the ESA's contractor, and asked Mr. Sayer to pass on his thanks to his staff for their exemplary service and professionalism.

Mayor Howells added her appreciation for Fountain's productive partnership with AMR over the years.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>
Motion to Adjourn	Mayor Jeri Howells
Second	Bill Normile
Approved	Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:45 p.m.

**Emergency Transport Services**  
**City of Colorado Springs Rationale and Direction**

The administration of the City of Colorado Springs recognizes that the dynamics of health care are rapidly changing. As the ESA Board heard directly from its independently-hired professional consultant, quality emergency health care service requires closer relationships between first responders, transport services, and local hospital systems. Currently, 85% of emergency transports within the jurisdiction of the ESA originate within the city limits of Colorado Springs. In addition, the Colorado Springs Fire Department is the first responder on 76% of emergency 911 calls within the jurisdiction of the ESA. For these reasons, the administration of the City of Colorado Springs believes that in order to best serve emergency health care patients and citizens of the City, any RFP relating to emergency transport services within the City should be controlled, conducted, negotiated, and managed by the Colorado Springs Fire Department.

Competitive procurement is the holy grail of government procurement because it results in the best bang for the buck for the taxpayers. Many cities, both larger and smaller than Colorado Springs, receive compensation from ambulance providers for the EMT and Paramedic services provided by their fire departments, who frequently arrive first to emergencies. It is really time that Colorado Springs receives such reimbursement and does not remain in the old model where the City is providing hidden subsidies to the provider.

Accordingly, the City will be issuing an RFP for emergency transport services within the city limits. The RFP will be designed to award a contract for emergency transport services beginning April 2014, at the expiration of the current ESA-AMR contract. The RFP could include an alternate option or options that will request proposals not only for the City but for service in the remainder of the ESA area as well. In any event, based on the responses to the RFP process, the Colorado Springs Fire Department may recommend to City Council that Council exercise its right to withdraw the City from the ESA by terminating the ESA IGA pursuant to its termination provisions.

The City of Colorado Springs remains dedicated to cooperating with neighboring communities and fire protection districts to ensure that the highest quality emergency transport services and patient care possible is provided throughout El Paso County. As I noted earlier, the City is willing to extend the scope of the City-issued RFP to include provision of emergency transport service to all areas currently served by the ESA. However, City administration does not feel the current structure of the ESA is providing the best level of service to patients and citizens and the City needs the ability to directly manage any contract for emergency transport services to insure better service. Should the neighboring communities and the ESA Board choose not to be included in the City-issued RFP, the City will continue to communicate closely and cooperate with our neighbors to ensure the absolute highest quality of emergency transport services is available to all of El Paso County.