

ESA December Board Meeting

MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2012 2:00 P.M.

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

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

Agenda topics

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA/POSTPONEMENTS

DISCUSSION
None.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION
Chair Jim Reid welcomed Dr. Julie Kiley to the ESA Board, and Dr. Kiley introduced herself.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3 AND OCTOBER 19, 2012

DISCUSSION	
None.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to approve the minutes of the October 3 and October 19, 2012 meetings.	Commissioner Peggy Littleton
Second	John Scorsine
Approved	Unanimous

4.A. AGREEMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2012

DISCUSSION	
Eileen Gonzalez presented the performance and compliance report for September & October 2012. She reported that there were no incidents of contract Level Zero during either September or October, and that the recommended assessments are \$5,568 for September and \$5,133 for October, for a total of \$10,701. There were 43 calls that exceeded the maximum response time for their zones in September, and 40 in October. The contractor exceeded the 90% response standard for the Urban, Suburban and Rural zones, as well as the 92% systemwide response standard for both months.	
The contractor referred two calls in September; both to Black Forest Fire/Rescue; and five calls in October, three to Black Forest Fire/Rescue and two to Fountain Fire Department.	
There was one severe weather period in October for which the contractor added resources pursuant to the level of effort model for severe weather, and Eileen called the board's attention to the data relating to those events. The contractor requested that 32 calls be exempted from the data to determine compliance with performance standards for September, and 36 calls for October, and staff recommends that the requested calls be exempted.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to approve the agreement compliance report for September & October 2012.	Deputy Chief Tommy Smith
Second	Commissioner Littleton

Approved	Unanimous
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4.B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCUSSION
Chair Reid reported that the Compliance Committee met on November 28 to consider three complaints, all of which were resolved.

4.C. AMR COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

DISCUSSION
Scott McCune, AMR's Operations Manager, reported that, at the recent Colorado State EMS Conference, the Emergency Medical Services Association and the Colorado Department of Health presented nine awards, two of which were awarded to AMR Colorado Springs employees. Nick Pieper was selected as ALS Provider of the Year, which makes this the second year in a row and the fourth time in 8 years that an AMR Colorado Springs employee was chosen for this award. Tawnya Silloway received the Dr. Robert Campbell Award for Distinguished Service for the Line of Duty Handbook she developed, as well as her work with the national EMS memorial.

4.D. TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2012

DISCUSSION	
Eileen delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Mr. Florek, including the following information relating to financial activities in October & November: October: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue included fourth and final quarterly contract administration payment; city and county interest payments, and assessments for July & August. Expenses included regular city & county salary and benefits payments; fourth quarter rent; legal fees; and office expenses. November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No revenue. Expenses included regular city salary and benefits; legal fees; and office expenses. 	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to approve the Treasurer's report for October & November 2012.	Jeff Force
Second	Chief Carl Tatum
Approved	Unanimous

5.A. THIRD QUARTER 2012 GRANT AWARDS

DISCUSSION
Chair Reid presented grant awards to the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanover Fire Protection District Tri-County Fire Protection District Colorado Springs Fire Department Manitou Springs Fire Department

5.B. COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT/UPDATE

DISCUSSION
Chair Reid introduced Chief Rich Brown of the Colorado Springs Fire Department, noting that at the ESA's last meeting, the Colorado Springs Fire Department had indicated that they would provide the ESA Board with an update, and thanked Chief Brown for attending the meeting to do so. Chief Rich Brown provided an update on his department's position as it relates to the issue of the ESA contract. He reported that as the fire chief, he was in the process of conducting a thorough review of the service delivery for the Colorado Springs Fire Department, basically rethinking everything that they're doing as an organization as it relates to service delivery to the community. He reported that he had asked the City Council to provide him with more time to review their position, with the intent of determining what is best for the citizens of Colorado Springs. He noted that the City has been a member of this organization (the ESA) since its inception, and that they understand that EMS service delivery within the entire county is vital to the health and well-being of our community. He assured the board that any

recommendation from his department to the City Council would not compromise response times or systems. He also noted that the current contract with AMR expires December 31, 2013, and has a provision for a 90-day extension. Chief Brown reported that he had asked Council for more time to consider all options so that he could make a recommendation that's in the best interest of the citizens of Colorado Springs, that he expected to make those recommendations in the first half of 2013, and that the ultimate decision would be up to the legislative and executive branches of City government.

Chief Tatum noted that the ESA Board voted on the issue back in the summer of 2012 and that nobody from the City of Colorado Springs came forward at that time to voice their objections. He also noted that the Chiefs who participated in the Chiefs Forum had agreed that the renewal was their preferred course of action. He noted that staff had recommended an RFP process timeline of at least 18 months. He asked whether the CSFD would be in favor of a one-year, rather than a two-year, renewal. Chief Brown said that his staff had been engaged in conversations with AMR dating back months on ways they could be more collaborative, and that they had gotten sidetracked by the Waldo Canyon fire, after which they decided it would be a good time to revisit the ESA issue. Chief Tatum expressed his concerns that AMR's staff turnover rate might increase if employees didn't have some assurances about the future of the contract. Chief Brown reported that Curt DeCapite, the City's contracting manager, had advised him the RFP process would only take 6 months, maximum. Chief Tatum noted that the ESA contract has 27 stakeholders rather than just one, which makes the process longer than if the city engaged in it by itself.

Councilman Bennett noted that he was at a loss as to why the process would take 18 months. He stated that the Memorial Hospital lease process, which was considerably more complex than the ESA's contract, only took 9 months, and that he felt there was enough time to complete it if the ESA began the process in March.

Bill Normile thanked Chief Brown for coming to the meeting, and asked him and the members of the Board to keep in mind that, should the City ultimately decide to "go their own way" and enter into its own contract for ground ambulance service, the other districts in El Paso County will have to go their own way. He asked Chief Brown why his department's representative to the ESA Board didn't bring up the department's concerns in June 2012. Chief Brown answered that his staff had been having conversations with AMR for 10 months, possibly one year, hoping that they could work something out to be more efficient and more collaborative, but that nothing had come of those conversations, and he felt that asking for a delay in the renewal conversations could move the conversation along. He explained that he simply wanted more time to explore other EMS service delivery models in other municipalities across the country.

John Scorsine asked for clarification on Chief Brown's statement that whatever occurs, his recommendations would not compromise the response system. Chief Brown reassured him that it was not his intent to compromise service to the county. Mr. Scorsine said that it was disconcerting to run up against the contract's expiration, that there was still a significant level of uncertainty, and that it sounded to him like the CSFD wanted to go to RFP rather than renewing the contract. He said that the county agencies feel as if they're at the mercy of the City. Chief Brown said that was not the case. Mr. Scorsine asked why he shouldn't be concerned about the lack of transparency in their conversations with AMR.

Commissioner Littleton noted that the ESA was an effective regional solution. She endorsed the idea of a one-year extension to ensure the continued stability of the system, and asked why the CSFD was working on "fixing a system that wasn't broken." Chief Brown said that he had been advised that the process wouldn't take that long and that a one-year extension wasn't needed, but that Commissioner Littleton's concerns were duly noted.

Jeff Force contributed his thoughts that any reevaluation of the system is valuable, that county agencies would benefit from participating in the City's evaluation process and vice versa, and that he would like the City's process to be more open. By holding their recommendation until June and only then opening it up to the county department's evaluation, they delay the process. He expressed his concern that the short timeline for an RFP process that the City representatives are endorsing is not sufficient time for a multi-agency process.

Dr. Kiley asked Chief Brown whether they could wrap up their discussions with AMR by March, and Chief Brown responded that he didn't want to overpromise and underdeliver. Ted Sayer reported that one facet of their discussions with CSFD would be based on some data analysis that will be performed by a vendor and wouldn't be completed until at least January.

Bill Normile requested a more specific timeline for resolution of the issue, and noted that a split between the city and county would raise prices. Chief Brown reassured him that rates wouldn't go up as a result of the City's evaluation, and that the system as a whole would not be affected. John Scorsine echoed the sentiment that the county agencies need a more specific date so they can explore other options if they feel their interests aren't being served. Chief Brown said that he would send a date commitment to Chair Reid.

Mayor Howells explained to Chief Brown that it felt to her that he was basically saying "trust us," and asked if there was any additional information he could provide about his objectives that would make the county agencies feel better about the situation, which is frightening to them. Chief Brown explained that he would just like more time before the Council makes any decisions on renewing the contract. Mayor Howells reiterated that the delay would have a big

impact on the rest of the county agencies, and the sooner they knew the outcome, the better.

Jeff Force explained that, while he was confident Chief Brown and Mr. Sayer were doing the right thing, and that, as a resident of the City, he would be willing to forego cost savings from efficiencies for six months to a year in order to conduct a thorough analysis, he thought it would be a good idea to bring a county and/or ESA representative into the process to build trust.

Chief Brown gave an example of one of the efficiencies that his staff had discussed with the contractor, which involved strategies to provide more and quicker ALS coverage in the county, but that he was not prepared to discuss those conversations in detail. He emphasized that the models he was exploring would only affect the city, and Mr. Force replied that the system was built such that responses in the city and the county were intertwined and couldn't be separated.

Chief Tatum noted that the group had failed to ask Chief Brown what they could do to help speed up the process and make it more open, and Chief Brown expressed his appreciation for the offer.

Bill Normile expressed his concern that anything the City explores that could have an impact on the county agencies, even a positive one, should involve their representatives.

Councilman Bennett offered to, on Monday, December 10, recommend to City Council that they adopt a one-year extension at their earliest opportunity. The group discussed options for a special meeting for the ESA Board to possibly adopt a one-year renewal on January 7 so that the Council could adopt it at their meeting on January 8.

5.C. 2013 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

DISCUSSION	
Eileen presented two alternative meeting schedules for 2013, and recommended adopting the every-month schedule, with a change to the proposed meeting date in January 2013 due to the holiday.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to adopt an every-month meeting schedule for 2013, with regular meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 2PM, with the exception of January 2013, when the meeting will take place during the second week of the month.	Deputy Chief Smith
Second	Councilman Merv Bennett
Approved	Unanimous

5.D. 2013 INSURANCE RENEWAL

DISCUSSION	
Eileen presented the proposal from IMA to renew the ESA's insurance policies for 2013, and requested the board authorize her to bind the policy at the quoted price. Commissioner Littleton asked a question relating to coverage for domestic acts of terrorism, and Jane Fredman provided information to assure her that the ESA was adequately covered.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to authorize the ESA's Business Administrator, Eileen Gonzalez, to bind the insurance policies for 2013 as proposed, and, due to the large increase in premiums over past years, to put the policies out to bid for 2014.	Chief Carl Tatum
Second	Jeff Force
Approved	Unanimous

5.E. BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

DISCUSSION
Chief Carl Tatum asked whether staff had looked at the issue, as he had requested at the last meeting, of incorporating a prohibition for the contractor to negotiate privately with an ESA member agency, and Eileen reported that she and Jane had discussed the issue and would continue to work on what the most appropriate method was to do so. Chief Tatum also asked Ted Sayer whether the uncertainty regarding the status of its contract with the ESA was affecting employee morale and/or turnover. Mr. Sayer responded that he had not seen an increase in turnover yet, but that employees would prefer more certainty about the future of the contract. Bill Normile asked Ted Sayer whether he had any comments on the earlier

discussion with Chief Brown, and Ted responded that, and Ted noted that AMR and its predecessor company have been in this area since 1979 and are proud of the system and their part in it, and that he looks forward to taking part in whatever process the ESA Board engages in.

Chair Reid complimented AMR's staff for their dedication and professionalism, and asked Ted to pass on his appreciation to his staff. Eileen noted that the meeting room was available in the morning of January 7, and proposed setting the board meeting for 8:30 that morning.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to Adjourn	Commissioner Littleton
Second	Dr. Julie Kiley
Approved	Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:37 p.m.