

Bayfield County Clerk

Lynn M. Divine, *County Clerk*

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Minutes of the:
Bayfield County Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee
October 21, 2021 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Held in the Emergency Operations Center, Annex Building, Washburn, WI
& Remotely

The meeting of the Bayfield County Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by County Administrator, Mark Abeles-Allison

1. **Welcome and Thank You for Volunteering:** County Administrator, Mark Abeles-Allison thanked all members for joining the committee.

2. **Introductions of Members:**

Introductions of all present are as follows:

- Beverly Steele – Town of Clover; Alternate Member
- Meagan Quaderer – Bayfield County Emergency Management Director
- Michael Lang – Red Cliff EMS Services Director
- Lyn Cornelius – Bayfield Ambulance Service Director
- Steve Sandstrom – Bayfield County Board Supervisor, District 1
- Clyde Clauson – Town of Orienta Clerk; Alternate Member
- Jan Victorson – Former Bayfield County Emergency Management Director; EMS Council Representative, Iron River and Mason Ambulance Agency
- Rob Puls – EMS Council Representative, Paramedic Coordinator for Great Divide Ambulance Agency
- Dan Vaillancourt – Town of Lincoln, Member of Finance Board for Mason Area Ambulance
- Larry Fickbohm – Bayfield County Board Supervisor, District 3
- Mark Abeles-Allison – Bayfield County Administrator
- Carrie Okey – Former EMT; Citizen Member
- David Larson – Village of Mason
- Lynn Divine – Bayfield County Clerk
- Sandy Raspotnik – Town of Washburn Chair
- Scott Kluver – City of Washburn Administrator
- Kellie Pederson – UW Extension Community Development Educator
- Eric Neff – Town of Barnes Supervisor
- Colleen Beagan – City of Bayfield Council Member
- Mark Dryer – Town of Lincoln Chair
- Brian Kline – Red Cliff Assistant Services Director, Red Cliff Community Ambulance
- Tam Hofman – EMS Council President, South Shore Ambulance Member
- Barb Gordon – Red Cliff Tribal Ambulance EMT; Citizen
- Paige Terry – Bayfield County Administrator's and Clerk's Office Clerk

Abeles-Allison reviewed the committee members with all in attendance.

3. **Discussion Regarding Committee Goals and General Parameters and Authorizing**

Resolution: Abeles-Allison reviewed Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-54, which authorized the development of the committee, with all in attendance. Emergency Management Director, Meagan Quaderer informed the committee of the intentions of the board in developing the committee was not to work towards implementing a countywide EMS system, but the committee would work together as a group to collaborate and address current and potential concerns with the different Bayfield County EMS agencies.

4. **Discussion Regarding Meeting Logistics:**

- a) **Web Page-** Abeles-Allison reviewed the web page and its contents with the committee.
- b) **Meeting Process-** Abeles-Allison explained that the committee would be meeting once a month over the next seven to eight months.
- c) **Chair and Vice Chair responsibilities-** Abeles-Allison informed the committee that the committee Chair and Vice-Chair would take on the responsibility of determining the path that the committee would take, i.e., agenda topics and meeting times, over the committee's duration.
- d) **Other-** Discussion took place regarding the roles of the alternate members of the committee, potential uses for the committee's web page, and the publication of minutes. Quaderer explained that the web page was designed with the goal of committee transparency in mind.

5. **Discussion Regarding Historical EMS Practices in Bayfield County and Where are We Now?:**

Extensive discussion took place regarding present problems among the various EMS agencies. Key topics include:

- a) A lack of funding for EMS Agencies to put towards staff and equipment
- b) A lack of volunteers to fill staffing positions
 - (a) Getting volunteers interested in the position
- c) Current staff members being split between an EMS agency and fire department and/or a full-time job
- d) Stricter requirements for volunteers
- e) Population demographics for Bayfield County
 - (a) An aging population
- f) Scale of county compared to its population
- g) Rural state of county roads
- h) Unreliable cell service

The committee asked that reports be prepared that reflect the number of ambulance runs for each agency as well as the number and type of staff per agency to reflect whether a staff member is full-time, part-time, employed, volunteer, and if the staff member is active or inactive.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. – Brett Frierhood joined the meeting remotely.

6. **Elect Chair and Vice Chair:** *Board Supervisor*, Larry Fickbohm nominated Steve Sandstrom as Chair. Abeles-Allison asked twice for other nominations. No other nominations. *Motion Carried.*

Ron Puls nominated Jan Victorson as Vice-Chair. Sandstrom asked once for other nominations. No other nominations. *Motion Carried.*

7. **Public Comment:** None.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Meeting Schedule for November and December and Agenda Topics:

The committee set the following two future meeting dates:

- a) November 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- b) December 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The following topics were proposed for the next meeting agenda:

- a) Present data for each ambulance agency regarding number of ambulance runs and staff at each agency
- b) Develop a work plan/timeline
- c) Develop SWOT/Trend Analysis

9. Adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, *a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m.*

Sincerely,

LYNN M. DIVINE
Bayfield County Clerk
LMD/pat