

Crawford County



County Commissioners

Chairman

Eric S. Henry

Vice-Chairman

Francis F. Weiderspahn, Jr

Secretary/Treasurer

John Christopher Soff

EMS Commission Members

Neil Fratus, City of Titusville

David Basnak, EMERGYCARE Inc.

Dan Bresee, Cochranon Fire Dept.

EMS Commission

c/o Crawford County DPS

632 Pine Street

Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

EMS Commission Members

Jason McPherson, Meadville Ambulance

Kurt Dennis, Greenwood Township

Maderia Paraskos, Conneaut Lake Amb

Austin Bates, Springboro Ambulance

Krista Geer, Active Aging

Megan Mason, Linesville Ambulance

Bill McClincy, EMMCO West

Jodi Greer, Centerville Ambulance

Josh Manuel, Crawford County DPS

Bill Taylor, Townville Ambulance

Tonya Moyer, Crawford County Care Ctr

Crawford County Emergency Medical Service Commission MINUTES

August 24, 2023, 9:00am

- I. Commissioner's Welcome – Commissioner Eric Henry welcomed everyone to the EMS Commission Meeting at 9:00am.
- II. Roll Call of Attendees – Attending was; Bresee, McPherson, Geer, Mason, McClincy, Manuel with DPS Staff Greg Beveridge, Allen Clark, and Don Bovard and Crawford County Coroner Scott Schell.
- III. Guests
 - a. Nick Banister, Tri-County Regional EMS Plan Administrator attended to give an overview of what his role and responsibilities are within the tri-county. His salary is paid with ARPA funds from Crawford, Erie, and Warren Counties. He reported he has been working a lot in Erie and Warren Counties meeting with the EMS providers to see how the EMS system can be improved through collaboration. He will be coming to Crawford County in the near future. He said most EMS agencies do not like responding outside of their normal jurisdiction but do so to cover for EMS agencies that do not have the staffing. Erie County is in the early phases of establishing an Authority and has hired a consultant to assist them in their initial actions. He has met with municipal elected officials which their position towards the EMS system is that it is broken and there is no way to fix it. Many municipalities do not meet with their EMS providers and vice versa. He looks at the total number of calls and the number of dropped calls to meet the 20% response percentage.
- IV. Lift Assists: Commissioner Henry reported that he is working with Active Aging, Meadville Medical Center, and home-based healthcare agencies. He is sharing information to help educate them to help their home-based clients. It was noted that some healthcare agencies do not train or allow their employees to lift patients. There is a lack of beds available in assisted and long-term health care due to the lack of staffing at these facilities. Active Aging cannot just go into anyone's home. They can do assessments to determine if someone is able to live by themselves or if they need additional care. A judge can order someone to be placed in a nursing home but

that is a difficult decision. Many residents are mentally deficient. The end goal is to have residents needing lift assistance to be assisted by an agency other than fire, EMS, or law enforcement agencies.

Some fire departments in the county are choosing to respond on lift assist calls even after being dispatched for them.

V. Report Out of Subcommittees

- a. Communications – Public Safety Director Greg Beveridge reported that all the new software and upgrades are working as expected. The two communication tower sites are moving forward at a slow pace. He is waiting on a proposal from MD Ally to see if that system would be beneficial for the county.
- b. Government – Neil Fratus submitted the following for his report. The City of Titusville is finalizing an Agreement with EmeryCare for the City to operate an EmeryCare Ambulance to utilize when EmeryCare is at level 0. The hope is for at the end of this month, EmeryCare will be providing training to the City Firemen. At the next Board of Commissioner's meeting, they will look at eliminating county tax for fire and EMS providers. Rob Horvat is going to school district meetings to see if they would support a similar proposal. Vernon Township is currently supporting it to those that live in Vernon Township.
- c. Stakeholders – A meeting will be held with a media marketing firm to explore avenues to promote recruitment for the EMS and fire service. Signage on vehicles, posters, and billboards is an option. An opportunity to educate the public will be attempted at the Crawford County Fair. Departments need to have a new member program to welcome new members into their department. Continue to work on a middle school recruitment program and pre-EMT classes in high schools.

VI. Next Meeting, October 26, at 9:00am at Crawford County DPS

VII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:58am.