

SUMMIT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 1:00 p.m.
SUMMARY MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 was called to order by Chair, Dan Gibbs, at 1:04 p.m. in the Hopefull Meeting Room, South Branch Library, 103 S. Harris Street, Breckenridge, Colorado.

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members present and answered to the roll call were:

Dan Gibbs, Chair

Thomas C. Davidson, Commissioner

Karn Stiegelmeier, Commissioner

Staff Present were as follows: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Frank Celico, Assistant County Attorney; Jamie Woodworth, Ambulance Director and Lori Dwyer, Deputy Clerk.

Attendees: Jeff Berino, Summit Fire & EMS Chief; Jim Cox, Summit Fire & EMS President; David Steele, Summit Fire & EMS Vice President; Lori Miller, Summit Fire & EMS Treasurer; Jim Lee, Summit Fire & EMS Director; Jim Keating, Red White & Blue Fire District Chief; Arch Gothard, Red White & Blue Fire District President; Dean Lippert, Red White & Blue Fire District Director; Rich Rafferty, Red White & Blue Fire District Director; Mary Hartley, Summit Fire & EMS; Bryan Webinger, Copper Metropolitan District; Bob Cole; Matt Scheer, Summit Fire & EMS.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved, as presented.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ambulance Operations Discussion with Summit Fire and EMS Board of Directors and Red, White and Blue Fire District Board of Directors (*Executive Session Recommended -- CRS 24-6-402 (4) (a)(b)(e) – Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations and property, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators and the legal issues related thereto*)**

**This meeting was treated as a Special Work Session and the BOCC did not go into Executive Session as recommended.*

Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager, facilitated a roundtable conversation among staff, the BOCC and members of the fire district boards on the following topics but not limited to:

- Expectations for collaboration and professionalism
- Opening remarks from the Chiefs regarding their views on the Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) report that was presented on September 25, 2018
- Financial projections & concerns
 - A need by Summit Fire & EMS to break even after Safety First Initiative funding ends
 - There will be a deficit without significant changes
 - Report did not address increases in personnel costs
 - Need to find efficiencies in the system for cost savings
 - Need to be strategic as vacancies come up over time
 - Replacing EMTs with Firefighter-Paramedics or Firefighter EMTs is not efficient
 - Fair wages for EMTs
 - Whether EMTs make enough compared to firefighters
 - Summit County undertook an extensive market survey of wages to determine that they are competitive
 - Just moved to 24-hour pay
 - Billing
 - Billing service would mean an increased cost and lower collection rates
 - Agencies were in favor of keeping control of billing
 - Increasing staff costs
- Deal-breakers for individual entities
 - Summit County does not want layoffs of their staff
 - Summit County does not want a long-term expectation of former Summit County Ambulance Service (SCAS) employees to be the ones to run out-of-county transports exclusively
- Organization after merger
 - Staff proposed that SCAS would be absorbed into Summit Fire & EMS
 - Discussion of a Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) or Summit County Government staff member in a board member position
 - Jim Lee mentioned that there are possible legal implications of a Commissioner as a board member
 - Meetings are open to the public
 - Better communication, regardless of who makes up the board, is critical
 - BOCC will always have a concern regarding how taxpayer funding is used
 - Discussion of whether there is an optimum number of EMTs versus those cross-trained as firefighters
 - Some are unwilling or unable to become firefighters
 - There are advantages to cross-training
 - Honoring individual preferences
 - Long-term cost savings to having non-firefighters
 - There are successful fire-based EMS systems in other areas

- These may not have the same seasonal component that Summit County does
 - Whether non-firefighter EMS personnel will run out of county transports on a regular basis
 - High Country Training Center
 - Medical direction
 - Finding the right levels of service and expertise
 - Potential Centura transports
 - Additional expense
 - Centura would keep 100% of revenues
 - Would Centura do local interfacility transports as well?
 - All parties agreed not to pursue Centura/FFL participation at this time
 - Seasonality
- Potential ambulance licensing changes throughout the state of Colorado

Scott Vargo made the following suggestions to facilitate moving forward:

- Small group to discuss organizational structure, using ESCI findings as a basis
- Small group to discuss financial picture
 - Based upon decisions regarding organizational structure
 - Phased in plan to break even by the end of Safety First
- Coming together as a large group to discuss the work of the small groups
- Red White and Blue Fire District Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA)
 - Short term will be resolved today
 - Working on 1-year IGA
 - Staff will prepare a draft document for a long-term IGA

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Lori Dwyer



Dan Gibbs

Lori Dwyer, Deputy Clerk

Dan Gibbs, Chair