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EASTSIDE FIRE & RESCUE
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING

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Alternate Meeting Format: On March 24, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 prohibiting open public meetings from occurring in person. Due to these factors, the regular meeting of the EF&R Finance and Administrative Committee (FAC) was held virtually on May 27, 2020, using a remote meeting platform.

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FAC Members: Vice Chair Larry Rude (Fire District 10)
Stacy Goodman (City of Issaquah)
Board Director Alan Gothelf (City of North Bend)
Chair Karen Moran (City of Sammamish) *(late arrival)*

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Present: Board Director Chris Ross (City of Sammamish)
Board Director Alan Martin (Fire District 10)
Board Director Chris Reh (City of Issaquah)
Alt. Board Director Heather Koellen (City of North Bend)
Chris Gianini (City of Sammamish)
Fire Chief Jeff Clark
Executive Assistant Jamie Formisano

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Absent: Commissioner Ron Pedee (Fire District 38) *(unexcused)*

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The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Regular Business:

1. May 6, 2020 meeting minutes for approval: IT WAS MOVED BY DIRECTOR GOTHELF, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR ROSS TO: Approve the meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

2. Budget Discussion: Chief Clark discussed potential fees to increase revenue.

- Transport Fee: Reviewed the current BLS transport fees, projected 2020 revenue and potential increased revenue. Discussed the process of transport billing, mileage fees, and the current process of billing for transports. Clarified that citizens are “balanced billed”, but EF&R does not seek collections. This will not change what is collected from Medicare or Medicaid, it will only be billed to private insurance companies.

Discussed the impacts of billing citizens, the median costs of transports (related to the AMR contract rate), Systems Design (vendor) fees and role in collections, the data to estimate the average cost of an EF&R transport, and potential policy language related to Section 5.4. Discussed FEMA reimbursement as it relates to personnel, equipment, and apparatus costs.

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The Committee discussed a phased approach with implementation and potential data surrounding age range of calls. Clarified that changing transport rates does not impact fees to citizens, only insurance companies.

- FAC questions: Is the Committee interested in adjusting the fees? What is the rate based on? Do we want to bill citizens via invoicing from the vendor? Do we want to do any collection work? When, if any, would be the right time to change rates?
- Mixed feedback to raising the fee, due to the current environment and benchmarking what the rate is based on.
- Not opposed to speaking to the vendor related to their process for invoices/notices.

Additional information will be brought to the June meeting for further discussion.

- Review Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fees: Recapped the initial pilot program. The State legislation goes into effect June 11, 2020, which will change the process. Chief will bring additional information to the June meeting for a decision from the FAC whether to move forward.
- Discuss current and potential fees: Current fees include shop fees, transport fees, CPR classes, and inspection fees. Additional information will be brought to the June meeting for further discussion.

Potential Treat & Refer fee: On July 23, 2017, Legislature passed [House Bill 1358](#). The law allows Fire Departments to establish and collect reasonable charges for services provided under the community assistance referral and educational services program ([RCW 35.21.930](#)). Treat & Refer provides 9-1-1 callers with the option of receiving treatment at home, followed by referral to destinations that can provide immediate access to care in non-emergent situations. Destination and referral options include behavioral health providers, urgent care, primary care/specialists, crisis response or the option of staying home. Additional information will be brought to the June meeting for further discussion.

Good of the Order: Discussed providing all materials ahead of the meeting for time to review.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting: June 24, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.