



AGENDA

Eau Claire County
EMS Study Committee
Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.
Eau Claire County Courthouse
721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703 • Room 3312

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

Join from the meeting link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m7d2dae1b697a6ea430b5c7e35d8e7964>

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number: 2530 608 5320 Password: 3vrV5xA5bmp

Join by phone:

Dial in: 415-655-0001 Access Code: 2530 608 5320

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll call
3. Public Comment
4. Review/approval of meeting minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. October 30, 2023
5. Countywide EMS research updates and proposal – **Discussion/Action**
6. Recommendation and presentation to the County Board – **Discussion**
7. EMS impacts related to HSHS/Prevea closures – **Information/Discussion**
8. Future Agenda Items – **Discussion**
9. Adjourn

Prepared by: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-7335, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.



MINUTES

Eau Claire County

EMS Study Committee

Monday, October 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Eau Claire County Courthouse

721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703 • Room 3312

Present: Rod Eslinger, Tyler Esh, Jake Brunette, Dane Zook, Todd Myer (Remote), Allen Myren

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator, Tom Webb, Dan Hanson, Matt Jaggar, Jon Schultz, Debra Grinde, Dan Williams, Kathryn Schauf, Jason Szymanski, Kitzie Winters, Jennifer Meyer, Jen Meyer, Mark Renderman, Sara Regenauer, Andrea Newman-Wilfong, Frank Bozich (Dept. of Revenue), Tony Biasi, Jaime Burkhardt, Senator Jesse James

Public: Aidan Sanfillipo (Leader Telegram)

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Myren called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and confirmed the meeting notice.

Roll call

Roll call is listed above under present. Introductions were also provided.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Discussion with the Department of Revenue

Joe Alf joined at 3:05 p.m.

Andrea Newman-Wilfong, Sara Regenauer, Frank Bozich from the Department of Revenue were in attendance to provide information/input.

Dan Williams, EMT-P – EMS Rural Coordinator, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care

Dan Williams provided information.

Review/approval of meeting minutes from September 18, 2023

Motion by Rod Eslinger, seconded by Jake Brunette. All in favor, minutes approved.

Update/Recap on EMS Study Committee (progress to date, deliverables, upcoming deadlines)

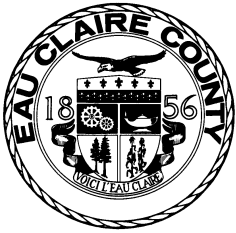
Jake Brunette provided an update on the committee's work thus far. Attorney Brunette also provided various options on the direction this work could take. Motion by Rod Eslinger to draft a resolution extending the EMS Study Committee until the end of the Legislative Year (April 2024) to allow additional time to complete further study. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion by Tyler Esh to create a sub-committee to explore the transfer of service and how it impacts the levy limits. The sub-committee should include County Attorney, City Attorney, County Finance, City Finance, and a representative from the Towns Association. Seconded by Rod Eslinger. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator



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January 29, 2024

TO: Eau Claire County EMS Study Committee

FROM: Attorney Jake Brunette

RE: Update on Countywide EMS in Eau Claire County – January 2024

Since the last EMS Study Committee meeting in November 2023, I have continued to research countywide EMS by corresponding with representatives from the City of Eau Claire, the Finance Department, and representatives from Wisconsin Counties Association. Eau Claire County is not alone with municipalities throughout the state struggling to finance and maintain quality EMS coverage especially in rural areas.

Key aspects of EMS in Eau Claire County are:

1. Eau Claire County has nineteen (19) municipalities (13 towns, 3 cities, 3 villages)
2. Eau Claire County has five (5) ambulance providers
3. Eau Claire County has eleven (11) first responder providers
4. Municipalities are happy with the quality of EMS
5. The primary provider of EMS is the City of Eau Claire, which provides quality EMS
6. Municipalities levy varying amounts to fund EMS with municipalities desiring to use the levy for other municipal needs (i.e. roads)
7. Municipalities want funding to help pay for quality EMS as the cost continues to rise
8. Eau Claire County does not provide EMS currently
9. Eau Claire County does not want to negatively impact a municipality's levying capacity and/or shared revenue by providing countywide EMS

Key aspects and questions of countywide EMS are:

1. Only a county has the authority to levy taxes outside of levy limits if countywide EMS is provided (cities, towns, and villages do not have this authority and county cannot create or delegate authority to municipalities)
2. Countywide EMS means the service is provided to the entire county
3. What constitutes countywide EMS is unclear
4. Countywide EMS must be approved by State DHS and State DOR
5. What constitutes a transfer of service from the municipality to the county is unclear

6. What impact does countywide EMS have on a municipality's levying capacity in relation to 2023 Act 12 taking effect on July 1, 2024 (key issue: filing/not filing a notice of transfer of services; DOR guidance still pending)?
7. What if a municipality levies less taxes for EMS compared to previous years in relation to 2023 Act 12 and Wis. Stat. 66.0608(2m) (starting in July 1, 2024, each municipality must certify annually that the municipality has maintained a level of EMS that is at least equivalent to the previous year or risk losing a portion (~15%) of shared revenue)?
8. What if all municipalities are not onboard with the county's plan for EMS?
9. How much does countywide EMS cost considering municipalities' current investment into EMS?

Options for countywide EMS in Eau Claire County include:

1. Consolidated services – county is the sole provider of EMS
2. Supplemental services – county is one provider with other non-county providers
3. Distributive services – county contracts with non-county providers
4. No countywide EMS – EMS provided by each municipality but not the county

If the county were to provide countywide EMS considering the quality EMS that is already provided in Eau Claire County along with the primary desire to acquire funding from the county, the best option would be for the county to proceed with the distributive model by entering into intergovernmental agreements with each municipality with conditions (i.e. EMS oversight committee) where the municipality agrees to provide EMS (direct or contract) while agreeing to maintain, at least, the financial investment into EMS from the previous year. The county would determine annually an amount to levy to supplement the cost of EMS and disperse funds amongst all municipalities pursuant to a formula (i.e. population, municipality size, call volume, etc.). Primary questions/concerns are: 1) does this model constitute a countywide EMS; 2) does this model transfer service and, if it does, what happens when the county and municipality don't file a notice of transfer; and 3) what obligations does the county have if a municipality does not enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the county for EMS? Ultimately, considering the questions/concerns about what constitutes countywide EMS along with the obligations that come with the service and how the municipality's taxing capacity may be impacted as well as the quality EMS that is already being provided in the county, I recommend the county not provide countywide EMS.

I propose the committee draft a summary report outlining: 1) current state of EMS in the county; 2) questions/concerns of countywide EMS; 3) options for countywide EMS; and 4) a recommendation. I propose this summary report is reviewed and approved in February or March with a presentation of the report to the County Board in March 2023.

Sincerely,

Jake Brunette
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Eau Claire County