

EMS Reform discussion

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

In attendance:

Jeff Bennett	Sylvania Fire
Jason Francis	Whitehouse Fire
Doug Meyer	Waterville Fire
Ralph Shearn	RCOG
Clayton O'Brien	Oregon Fire
Stacey Mitchell	RCOG
Allison Armstrong	Toledo Fire
Matthew Homik	Monclova Twp. Fire
Dennis Cole	LCEMS
Andrew Sauder	Springfield Twp. Fire
Tony Parasiliti	Jerusalem Twp. Fire
Vicki Schmidt	LCEMS
Schuyler Beckwith	LCEMS
Brent Parquette	LCEMS
Eric Klavinger	RCOG
Matthew Heyrman	LC Commissioners
Tim Clapp	Toledo Fire
Karen Poore	City of Toledo
Kirk Keane	Toledo Fire
Bryce Blair	Toledo Fire
Mike Bailey	Washington Twp. Fire
Zak Reed	Toledo Fire
Brandon Lobochefski	Maumee Fire
Jonathon Ziehr	Springfield Twp. Fire
Don Murray	Jerusalem Twp. Fire (Zoom)
Todd Brookens, M.D.	
Bob Siebenaler	180 th (Zoom)
John Kaminski	Toledo Fire (Zoom)
Joe Miller	(Zoom)

Matt Heyrman began the meeting with a discussion about pushing the start date because some jurisdictions have asked to do so. Want to start that conversation by identifying goals and what would be accomplished by changing the date. What is the thing we want to resolve, and how long would it take to resolve. The county has made every effort to get to the decommissioning of our EMS system on June 3, so our level of service will reflect those changes. One of the issues with extending much longer is that the county may need to get a new Medical Director. Dennis will have to have a conversation with Dr. Lindstrom. This also affects the CE capability.

We went around the room department by department to get an idea about who is ready to go live on June 3rd. Chief Bennett said Sylvania is ready to go.

Chief Francis said Whitehouse is ready to go but if there is a delay on the start date, he is worried about a retirement happening in October in their department; need to switch to one EMT and one Paramedic in order to be able to survive.

Chief Meyer said they could be ready June 3 as far as people. He worries that there are still too many issues to do this effectively. His issues are RCOG, Open radio channel, Maumee and the opportunity to get them back in and renegotiation of money should Maumee stay out.

Chief O'Brien said Oregon is ready June 3. Oregon signed the agreement and needs to implement June 3 to address resource management issues for Oregon Fire.

RCOG says they will be ready June 3rd and Eric discussed some of the issues that have been worked out. Stacey said as long as they have response plans they will be ready to go.

Chief Ziehr said he believes we can work through any medical director and CE issues. He says Springfield is ready and prepared to go on June 3, will have to relook at the contract once they receive an MOU about the money coming to support the day rig if Maumee is staying out.

Chief Armstrong said they could do it by June 3 but could use more time to work some of these issues out. Concerned about the idea that departments may hold the last resource back. Chief Armstrong is all for Oregon going first on June 3, this would test it out on a smaller scale. Toledo has already moved forward with a plan for CE and medical direction.

Chief Bailey said Washington Township is ready to go.

Chief Homik said Monclova is ready to go June 3 but a delay would give us more time to shore things up.

Chief Parasiliti said Jerusalem Twp. is ready to go June 3 along with Oregon.

Matt and Stacey discussed what would happen if the east region, Oregon and Jerusalem Twp., went live June 3 and the other departments delayed. Ralph discussed how the COG would handle that. Two medic units that would exist in Oregon would be in Fire side of CAD, those units would be ALS resources. Any medic unit that doesn't have a B in the end is always ALS so that helps dispatchers determine if a unit is ALS or BLS. That is how it would all work, too, if everyone moved forward on June 3.

Chief Lobochefski said Maumee's position is still to not participate in the agreement. Maumee is ready to support ALS in Maumee. He has not asked for a delay, but believes any extra time to make sure this is done right is advantageous. Maumee are ready to go with their CE and medical direction and other aspect, they are ready to support Maumee June 3. He is interested to see how the new version of the Policy Committee forms out for the future.

Matt said the most pressing issue in his conversation with Patrick is the mutual aid issue. The reality is that once this change happens every transport unit becomes ALS capable and could be tied up with a BLS call. This concern is shared by more departments than just Maumee. We should have the conversation about what it looks like to hold back resources.

Auto aid versus requested mutual aid. Matt said we are only talking about ALS situations for auto aid and not one Chief said they would hold back a resource in that case. Discussion about the political realities of that perception in the community about sending resources to other communities for the efficiency of treating all residents. Matt is concerned about stepping back from auto aid across the

county because of the hit to ALS response times. We need to be real about how to move forward operationally. We want to keep the door open politically to Maumee to allow them an opportunity to reconsider in the future; but do the Chiefs want to move forward operationally. Chief Ziehr said they want notification overnight if their last unit is going out but they want auto aid versus requesting mutual aid.

Matt Heyrman explained the 9 and 2 rule only comes into play when an ALS call comes through and the closest available unit(s) in that home region is more than 9 plus 2 minutes away. It looks within your region first. There was a lot of discussion around the 9 and 2 rule. Matt said this is how we resolved the political problem and had talked this out extensively over the last two years and this was the solution. Matt made the point that the battalion chief doesn't have a choice in this contract, the only thing is that dispatch would give a courtesy notification overnight if it's the last resource being sent out.

Matt asked each jurisdiction to say whether they want to select a date for operations to move forward without Maumee or select a date that includes Maumee. East jurisdiction says June 3rd. Toledo said they do not want to wait for Maumee politically, they think we need to move forward. Monclova also does not want to wait for Maumee politically, that hurdle is going to take too long so we cannot wait to move forward operationally. Matt clarified that the conversation with Maumee focuses on where the \$402K goes. Leaving that topic open for discussion leaves the door open politically for them to come back into the fold. Chief Ziehr needs to know about the \$402K now because it changes how they prepare operationally but need to move forward without Maumee. Chief Lobo said he understands you have to do what you have to do, conversations will continue. Chief Bennet said they would like to go June 3rd because he feels bad for the crews that feel like they're in limbo, but if we have to wait operationally he won't push back. He doesn't think we can wait for Maumee to make a decision. Chief Francis said he is ready June 3rd but if a majority of the suburban jurisdictions want to wait he is ok with that. Chief Meyer said they could be ready June 3rd but would prefer to wait a little bit longer to get the best system in place at the right time.

Matt commented on the \$402K going to Springfield twp. They do not want to reduce funding into the system which is why 2% increase is built in. They want to create an additional ALS resource and Springfield would be able to do that with the \$402K. This buys more capability. Another benefit to sending the entire \$402K to Springfield is that if Maumee eventually decided to come into the system. It would be easier to negotiate that money transferring back to Maumee within a reasonable period. The County's two goals are to buy operational capacity and leave an open door for Maumee.

Chief Meyer asked what would happen if Maumee decided to come back in years down the line? Matt explained that he would have to have an agreement with Springfield Twp. that would include a realistic timeline to pull that money back if that happens down the line. Admin in Springfield seems open to this and our conversations around this have been good. Would negotiate a time, we would not just pull it, will continue conversations about Mike Hampton, Springfield Twp. Administrator.

Matt asked the jurisdictions to discuss the period. Toledo said they are ready to go. Springfield said they would make June 3rd work. Everyone wants to make sure it is done right so would welcome more time. Matt needs folks to be honest about real concerns so we don't go live June 3rd with issues. Go back with your teams, come back next week and identify all the things that stand between you and June 3, and what is the period to complete those things. Come to the next meeting with that list and those dates. Once we have that conversation Matt will send updated contracts so each jurisdiction can take it to their

elected officials and administrators. Dennis will have a conversation with Dr. Lindstrom about how he wants to move forward. Dr. Brookens believes extending the date creates even more of a challenge for crews.

Action items moving forward:

1. The County and Springfield Twp. will negotiate an agreement by next week for them to take back to their trustees.
2. Jurisdictions will create a list of action items and dates for moving forward operationally.
3. We will come together next week, switching the dates for Phase I and II meeting and EMS Reform meeting. We will have this discussion Monday, 4/22 and the Phase I and II discussion Wednesday 4/24.