

EMS Public Hearing

January 22, 2009

Barbara Morgan Elementary School, McCall

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Winkle, present were Chairman Winkle, Commissioners Eld and Cruickshank.

A presentation of the evolution of EMS in Valley County by Jacquie Cochran, Jill Hiller and Barb Pyle of the McCall, Cascade and Donnelly Fire Departments respectively.

Ivan Andrew, 245 Ernesto Dr., McCall. Expressed his concerns, the services must be professional and not just volunteers. Doesn't believe we can tighten the budget any further. Wants people to get together and brainstorm and find a way to continue these services.

Stu Young, 12880 Norwood, Donnelly. Increased taxes are not a good idea. EMS is total overkill, Sheriff, Fire, EMS, volunteers as it would cost \$100 on a \$250,000 home. Wouldn't voluntarily pay the price tag on this. Wouldn't include Yellow Pine. Petition the commissioner not to invoke the law. Give us a chance to vote on it.

Marilyn Olson, 890 Timber Ridge Court, McCall. Supports EMS and disagrees with preceding speaker. Thinks EMS people need our support.

Juan Bonilla, 238 Spink Lane, McCall Fire Chief in Cascade, McCall and Donnelly, speaks on behalf of the fire districts. County came to the fire districts with the hand out for EMS. Can't use fire department funds. Must come from the county. Here we contract with each agency. EMS is the sole responsibility of the County. His fire guys do EMS. Will to continue to do so, but it is not really permitted. McCall supports EMS as well, with firefighters. It's not if, but when they might no longer be able to do it.

Rob Terry, 520 Skyview, Cascade. Discusses actual costs – would be about 8% on a \$230,000 home. He is a basic EMT. Devoted 600 hours to Cascade EMS, he makes \$.75 per hour. Explains requirements, the blood and guts of each situation, and notes he and his wife have responded to 200 calls. They are down to one volunteer. Employers are more and more reluctant to let employees off for EMS services. No one likes tax increases. Three have resigned, 6 have moved out of the area.

Ed Ahlstedt, City Clerk, Cascade. Is a volunteer, puts in a lot of hours as well. Would like people to volunteer instead of paying taxes. There aren't enough volunteers. If everyone volunteered, we wouldn't be here.

Freddy Vanmiddendorf, 14106 Morrell Rd., McCall, volunteer with McCall Fire and EMS, then became an advanced EMT and transitioned from volunteer to paid EMT. Is an adequate for 24 hour staffing and immediate response. Community needs permanent infrastructure and needs basic safety. This security is necessary for economic growth. It is high on the list of needs.

Eileen Bailey, McCall. Supports a more equitable level of support, perhaps the district is the way to go.

Dan Krahn, 906 Ann St., McCall. This is an interesting dilemma. Funding was difficult years ago, it is no different today. We need to understand the level of service in the three communities. He would like to have more discussion on that subject.

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**GERALD WINKLE, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

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**ARCHIE N. BANBURY, CLERK**

