

Answers to Questions from the Public regarding the current EMS situation

THE PROBLEM (Some history, statistics, main issue, working parts of the equation)?

Contractual arrangement Between AMR (private for- profit business) and Sumter County Board of Commissioners. The contract is managed by Sumter County. AMR is unable to meet the requirements of the present contract. Additionally, AMR has been in Sumter County for 10 years and as you are aware the County has grown rapidly in both population and area. We have experienced excessive transport delays which AMR contributes to the COVID Pandemic and staffing shortages as they stated in their presentation to the Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport Committee on July 7th. The problem existed before the pandemic and continues now. There have been documented wait times in some cases of over an hour while The Villages Fire Rescue waits on scene with the patient.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROBLEM (Identify extenuating circumstances, circumstances unique to our community, when and why the problem became a problem)?

Based on the presentation that AMR has given the major cause has been contributed to the COVID Pandemic and staffing issues. There is also a question of the number of ambulances that they are required by contract to have on the road and the actual number they have. The problem existed before the pandemic and is still currently a problem.

HOW THE PROBLEM IS BEING ADDRESSED (Committee, members, public meetings, process, timeline, goal)?

The AD Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport committee was formed to review both EMS and Fire service in Sumter County. The issue is with AMR and not with the delivery of Fire and Paramedic services by the Villages Fire Rescue or Sumter County Fire.

OPTIONS BEING PROPOSED AND PROS AND CONS OF EACH (Acronym and "insider language" defined)?

There are 10 options on the table that are being reviewed by the committee. Out of those ten, five call for the removal of The Villages Public Safety Department. The plan that we favor by Chief Cain is Option 9 which calls for the transport service to be handled by The Villages Fire Rescue and Sumter County Fire. The committee may present additional options based on their findings.

COMMUNITY LEADER OPINIONS?

The Sumter County Board of Commissioners voted to form the Ad Hoc Fire EMS and Transport Committee. The committee is made up of residents. One from each of the 5 Sumter Voting Districts.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Attend all County Commissioner meetings as well as the Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport Committee meetings and make their voices heard. They can also write the Villages Daily Sun, The Villages-News and the Elected officials.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND MEETING DATES

Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport Committee Meetings. They are held at the Wildwood Community Center on Powell Road starting at 7pm.

July 21, 2021 Dr. Fitzpatrick UF Health as well as the County Proposals being reviewed.

August 4, 2021 Committee will discuss Options

August 18, 2021 Proposal will be selected

September 1, 2021 Review of draft report for Sumter County Board of Commissioners

September 15, 2021 Final Ad hoc committee meeting

The Sumter Board of County Commissioners meets at the Everglades Recreation Center on Marsh Bend Trail in The Villages on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

July 20, 2021

August 3, 2021

August 17, 2021

August 31, 2021

September 14, 2021

September 28, 2021