



Mary Starrett, Chair
Lindsay Berschauer, Commissioner
Casey Kulla, Commissioner

Craig Pope, Chair
Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner
Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



To: West Valley Fire Board of Directors c/o President Chris Greenhill.

October 15, 2021

Re: Joint letter from Polk County and Yamhill County Boards of Commissioners concerning ambulance services and Ambulance Service Areas (ASA) assignment.

President Greenhill and Board members,

It has become apparent that the West Valley Fire District (WVFD) is in a precarious position with its inability to respond adequately to EMS calls within its district.

The Commissioners from the two counties have been monitoring ongoing community concerns and fire board discussions regarding shared services and contracts with Sheridan, SW Polk Fire and Grand Ronde Tribal emergency services (CTGR). We are also very aware of the recent contract disputes between WVFD and CTGR that has resulted in the withdrawal of contracted services by CTGR and the resultant revenue decline to WVFD.

Currently, EMS responses to WVFD patrons are being provided by CTGR (and others) through mutual aid agreements and it appears this is beyond the terms of a typical mutual aid agreement. It seems that West Valley is not in a position to consistently respond to the Fire and EMS issues that may arise in their district. Further, it no longer has a contract with other agencies guaranteeing a response on their behalf. This poses a grave concern for the citizens within your district.

The undersigned Commissioners are asking the WVFD Board to provide a summary in writing describing how you intend to resolve the response deficiencies you are currently experiencing within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If we are mistaken in this regard, please clarify. If, after 30 days you are not able to resolve response deficiencies, the Commissioners will refer this concern to, and ask for mitigation strategies from our respective ASA advisory committees.

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It is important to note that ASA's are intended to be assigned to agencies with the capacity to respond adequately to the calls for services within an area and may be assigned as needed by the County Commissioners in that area. While the signed Commissioners to this letter are not looking forward to the task of potentially reassigning the ASA currently held by West Valley, it is important to note that we see this issue as dire and deserving of our oversight in order to adequately protect our citizens in the most beneficial way possible.

Please respond to the Chairs of the Boards of Commissioners by November 15th, 2021 with your intentions to mitigate these concerns.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Craig Pope, Polk County, Chair



Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst, Polk County



Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Polk County



Commissioner Mary Starrett, Yamhill County, Chair



Commissioner Lindsay Berschauer, Yamhill County



Commissioner Casey Kulla, Yamhill County



Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
10/14/21 by Board Order
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