

**SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH
RESOLUTION NO 2022- _23__**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN JUAN COUNTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO BEGIN REORGANIZING THE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FUNDS AND ASSETS IN EXPLORATION TO TRANSITION SERVICES BACK TO THE APPROPRIATE TAXING ENTITY WITHIN SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT IF DEEMED ORGANIZATIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY AND OUR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Commission created the San Juan Health Service District in 1988 to address health care in San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, during the creation of the Health District the County publicly noticed the hearing held on September 26th at the County Courthouse, to receive public comments, establishing the district for the “purpose of the health services which are hospitals, clinics, ambulances, etc.” and noticing to the public that taxes will be levied annually upon all taxable property within the service district and fees and charges may be imposed to pay for “all” the serves provided and created the district by adopting Resolution 1988-5; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2000, in the San Juan County Commission meeting, the Ambulance Services Director approached the Commission to consider the possibility of taking back the physical management responsibility for the Ambulance Services; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2000, the County Commission approved the transfer knowing that the Health District had continued to struggle financially and was continuing to be supported operationally by general funds taxes including the Health District tax funding; and

WHEREAS, at the time, the Health District provided clinical services including ambulance for Monument Valley, Bluff, Montezuma Creek, Monticello, and Blanding; and

WHEREAS, throughout time, the Health District has become a stable tax levy and health services provider, and has reduced their overall footprint of services in the County with other health service providers being present and operating in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Health District’s Control Board and Employees have been able to make organizational changes to successfully operate and create a positive cashflow including a fund balance, maintain a reserve, meanwhile opting to not take the allowed certified tax levy rate, yet continuing to reserve surplus funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the County received a grant to fund an EMS System Assessment of which results of the assessment demonstrated the following needs and issues in the current organization and structure:

- A) San Juan County EMS is not long-term sustainable.

- B) EMS in San Juan County does not operate as a system rather three separate locations operating independently.
- C) There is confusion about the vision for EMS
- D) Lack of consensus around the specifics of EMS, who funds it, how to fund it, who ensures provisions of service, who governs and who operates it.
- E) The Agency is likely 12 months or less away from a staffing crisis
- F) Tourism is straining the EMS system.
- G) Lack of communication from EMS leadership is a common theme.
- H) Questions about the effectiveness of current leadership.
- I) Funding and revenues are not being maximized.
- J) Violations of Department of Labor Wage and Hour laws.
- K) Collaboration with other entities such as Grand County EMS and the local health care districts could help with EMS sustainability

WHEREAS, since taking on the EMS Services, the County's General Fund, a completely different tax levy than the tax levy approved by citizens to be collected for these services back in 1988, has since created a fund deficit throughout the years of \$1,000,000 that is being paid back by the General Fund tax of which the same General Fund tax operates an EMS service which continues to need supplemental funding of General Funds Taxes averaging over \$500,000 a year for the last couple of years; and

WHEREAS, under the Health District, there are opportunities where these services can receive better guidance related to health services and medical practices, better billing, invoicing, and cost controls aiding in increasing and improving the revenue collection than what is currently taking place under the County; and

WHEREAS, there are opportunities that need to be explored and discussions had with other agencies throughout the County, surrounding Counties, hospitals and the Health District to work towards sustainable solutions for EMS services throughout the entire County; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence to make organizational decisions and to determine opportunities and sustainable solutions without the detriment of providing a satisfactory level of 911 ambulance services as defined in Utah Code 11-48-103 which states that "the governing body of each municipality and county shall.... ensure at least a minimum level of 911 ambulance services are provided..."; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, these services, under both organizations, has not been adequately supported and betterments are needed to adequately respond to the public, changes are needed for those who have volunteered their time and their families time serving as EMTs in responding to our and our visitor's emergency needs, who have worked for little recognition and far little pay, and for those full-time employees who have tried all they can to keep these services afloat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of San Juan County Commissioners **PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** this Resolution allowing the San Juan County Chief Administrative Officer to form an implementation committee to assist in determining sustainable

solutions in the reorganization of these services, to include transitioning some or all services back to the Health District with final restructuring decisions to be made in the next 6-months.

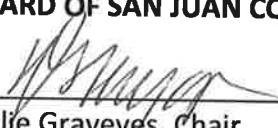
Passed by the Board of San Juan County Commissioners this 20th day of December 2022, by the following vote:

Those voting aye: Willie Grayeyes, Bruce Adams, Kenneth Maryboy

Those voting nay:

Those absent or abstaining:

BOARD OF SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Willie Grayeyes, Chair

ATTEST:



Lyman Duncan, Clerk/Auditor

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