



July 7, 2021

To Those Served by Buffalo EMS:

Buffalo EMS has serious concerns regarding the proposed purchase of land at the County Fire location on North Bypass. We have repeatedly expressed these at Rural Health Care District Board meetings about this proposal, but this has been overlooked by the majority of the Board. This despite an earlier pledge by the Board to consult with Buffalo EMS on future property purchase, has not been honored.

To be clear, Buffalo EMS is not opposed to the concept of a new designated facility to house ambulances in Buffalo.

However, Buffalo EMS has significant concerns regarding the proposed location at North Bypass without at the very least a feasibility and traffic study. The location is on an extremely heavy traffic entry and exit way within Buffalo and we are concerned that EMTs are likely to encounter significant delays in reaching the ambulance and therefore in reaching patients compared to a more central location. It is irresponsible for the RHCD Board to push this through without due diligence in establishing if this is an appropriate location.

Secondly, the timing of this purchase is, at best, questionable given the significant downturn in revenues. Buffalo EMS has already made significant cuts and savings and is continually requested to do so by RHCD Board and yet this same Board continues to press for an \$80,000 expenditure on land purchase when it is not at a critical time. Investing in land and building detracts from investment in necessary and reliable equipment, preserving existing crew, attracting new personnel and has a negative effect on morale for best possible patient care. Buffalo EMS believes that the actions of some board members will result in a deterioration from the current level of proven service and patient care.

Furthermore, it is hard to interpret this push for a designated barn as anything other than the Board's intent to attract an alternative to Buffalo EMS. This is underscored, for example, by the repeated approaches to other entities to take on the service despite the independent nationally accredited audit by SafeTech Solutions. <https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Johnson-County-WY-FINAL.pdf> This audit commended the current service as a model of good practice for operating EMS in rural America but has been disregarded by RHCD Board.

We request Chair Marilyn Connolly and the rest of the RHCD Board to suspend land purchase until there is an upturn in revenues. Should that be disregarded then to conduct a feasibility study to ascertain if this is the optimum location.

Sincerely,

Dave Harness - Director, Buffalo EMS