Northwoods EMS District
Budget sub-committee Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2026
Boulder Junction Town Hall

A quorum of Town Board members from each of the four member Towns may be present at this meeting. No official Town Board action will be taken by these members during their attendance at this meeting.

1. The Meeting was called to order by Phil Harris at 9:35 am and he verified that the Agenda had been posted appropriately. Those in attendance were:
   Committee: Phil Harris, John Hanson, Steve Herzberg, Dennis Ruess, Nicholas Newton, and Al Eschenbauch
   Command staff: Chief Jason Joling and Deputy Chief Jessie Mabie
   EMS Consultant: Dana Sechler
   Others in the meeting / online: Corky Curtis, Cathy Logan-Weber, rs, and Dharris

2. Motion by Steve Herzberg, second by Dennis Ruess to approve the agenda. Voice vote: all ayes.

3. Discussion and/or finalization of Chief Joling's proposed 2027 Budget for review by the District. It was reminded to the group that at the last committee meeting, that there had been a line-by-line review of the proposed 2027 Budget. Chief Joling was asked if there were any other line items that he felt should be increased/decreased, other than potential increases of wages / salaries. He responded that there were no other proposed adjustments. The Chief did verify that the income from the Billing were projections only, based on the prior years call volume and billing rates.

   The group was reminded that the second half of the year payments from each of the Town's was due at the end of August. Those payments should suffice to provide enough funding for the District though the end of the year.

   Moved by Steve Herzberg and seconded by Phil Harris to adopt the 2027 budget presented by the Chief to be forwarded to the NEMSD Board for review / approval. The following discussion occurred:

   John Hanson proposed that there be an Operating Budget, and a Capital Budget. The following items would be removed from the Operating budget, and included in a Capital Budget:

~$80,000 for Ambulance mileage reimbursement
~$96,000 of the $120,000 for Facility Fund
~$70,000 for the Ambulance reimbursement fund

Discussion also occurred on the value of the ambulances that the District is leasing from the Towns and Fire Company, as well as future options of the District owning an ambulance.

It was clarified that the difference between the proposed 2027 Budget, and removing the Capital items form the Budget is $241,000. Currently there is $78,000 set aside in the Ambulance reimbursement fund. Additional discussion continued on the use of the leased ambulances, and that of looking to the future of purchasing new ambulances for the District.

Discussion occurred on how the Towns collect for the amounts to be given to the District (levy / borrowing / donations, etc.) and how money would be set aside for capital expenses, as well as accounting for any interest that would be accrued in the various bank accounts.

The above motion was clarified, and then withdrawn, as it did not clearly specify the increase for the wages and benefits.

A motion was then made by Phil Harris, and seconded by Steve Herzberg to adopt the 2027 budget presented by the Chief—to include a 5% increase for the wages / benefits to the staff—to be forwarded to the NEMSD Board for review / approval.

John Hanson motioned, seconded by Dennis Ruess for an amendment to approve the budget with the exception of the $96,000 for the facilities fund and the $70,000 for the ambulance fund to be removed from the Operations budget. Voice vote: 2 ayes, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Motion for the amendment failed. Additional discussion then occurred on developing a plan for a Capital budget. The motion for the amendment was then recast. Voice vote: 2 ayes, 4 nays. Motion for the amendment failed.

A voice vote was then taken on the original motion: 6 nays. Motion failed.

Another Budget meeting will be set up in July to continue discussions.

4. A motion was made by Steve Herzberg, second by Dennis Ruess to adjourn.
   Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.