

Whitefish EMS Director's Report

August 2025 – September Meeting

1) All shifts in August were covered by Whitefish staff. There were 11 requests for service.

- 1 Weakness
- 1 Cardiac Arrest Medical
- 1 Cardiac Arrest Trauma
- 3 General Weakness
- 2 Falls with injury
- 1 Sick Person
- 2 Falls with possible injury (one was mutual aid for Luce Co. in Hulbert)

2) Next NEMSA Meeting– September 17, 2025 at 630pm at KCT.

At the NEMSA board meeting on September 3, 2025, it was moved to NOT accept the July 2026 delay request from Whitefish Township and although NEMSA hopes that Whitefish will remain in the authority and begin operations in January, if Whitefish decides to remove themselves, a penalty of \$43,343.00 will be expected as they feel we are outside the 60 day notice if a budget is due on October 1, 2025. I do not agree with such a high penalty for the following reasons:

- a) The cost incurred by NEMSA due to Whitefish uncertainty, delay, or withdrawal is minimal. They were unable to approve a budget at the September 3rd meeting which cost them time and if Whitefish removed themselves, it would cost time and money to republish the Articles of Incorporation. Overall, it will cost each township a little less because no truck will be placed in Whitefish. I agree there should be a minimal penalty to cover their costs.
- b) According to the articles of incorporation, we are within the 60-day notice for NEMSA operational start date and fiscal year of January 2026. However, they are trying to approve a budget for the last quarter of 2025, and we are outside a 60-day notice for that budget.
- c) Tax dollars are to pay for equipment, materials, services, and operations. None of which we will receive in return for a penalty payment as NEMSA is not yet operational.
- d) A precedent was set that allowed Chippewa Township to remain in the articles of incorporation but not receive services until NEMSA seeks an operational millage. Chippewa Township did not attempt to obtain their own millage as every other township did. However, they did notify NEMSA of their decision quite some time ago.

Depending on the board's decision and action tonight, there are other things to consider. Pulling out of NEMSA also affects Hulbert Township as this was the truck that was supposed to service them. They are contracted with Luce Co until April. If they do not have an option to re-sign that agreement, we should have a discussion with them to see if we can assist. We will also need to hold town hall meetings and workshop meetings to devise a plan for sustainability of our emergency services – both Fire and EMS.

Also understand that you have the option to remain in NEMSA, make the initial payment in October, and begin to receive service in January. This option proposes to cost less than providing our own service and would be a higher level of service with sustainability.

- 3) Still awaiting 800 radio programming. I have reached out to Bryce Tracy – he replied that we are still on the list. Working on a plan for 800 pagers.
- 4) I have been working with ESO and we are moving forward with the implementation for Whitefish minus the CAD feature for now. The “go live” date is set for October 1st, 2025.
- 5) I would like to request an EMS budget report provided to me at every township meeting and a detailed budget report of the expenditures from each cost center is provided once per quarter. The reports should include both revenue and expenditure.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Renee Gray, Paramedic IC, CADS, FF – Whitefish EMS Director