Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

Chairman Mark Laughery; Vice Chairman Tim McDermott; Secretary Jotham Arber

November 8, 2023 regular meeting

**COUNCIL MEMBERS – X by name was present at the meeting**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Matt Richter, Adair EMS | ` | John DeLavergne, Panora EMS | YES | Sean Bovinett, Stuart Rescue | yes |
| Amanda Waltz, GC Hospital | Yes | Jeremy Cooper, GC EMA | YES | Mike Dickson, Supervisor | YES |
| JD Kuster, Supervisor | YES | Jotham Arber, GC Public Health | YES | Tim McDermott NE Region | YES |
| Don Schwartz, NW Region | YES | Tammy Bireline, SW Region | YES | Mark Laughery, Central Reg | YES |
| Stacy Richter, SE Region |  | Julie Neilsen, Bayard EMS |  |  |  |

**Guests** – Jo Rasmussen, Chris Sipes with hospital, Sandy Atkinson with hospital, Maggie Armstrong, Brian Dorsett with Panora City Council, Cory Kirkpatrick with Stuart City Council

**Call to Order -**  Mark Laughery, Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call of Council members via sign in sheet – council members were introduced.**

* First Responder – will be independent from the EMS levy taxes. This will be independent of any decision made on the County vote.
* $15,000 that was donated to pay for first responder trainings. The trainings will be done around the county and will work with volunteers’ schedules. Estimated 12 - 15 that can take the training for free.
* Arber will meet on November 14 with DMACC to be able to service the trainings for First Responders.

**DISCUSSION WITH CITY COUNCILS’ MEMBERS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

* PANORA AND STUART – Essential part on getting the collaboration.
* Improved services within the county
* Funding
* Staff needed
* Jotham stated that Stuart council was a no go with the proposal. The committee felt it would be better to have another meeting with the city council members.
* Arber has talked with the state on guidelines for EMS services.
* There should be one full time ambulance presence in the western part of the County to meet the needs of all residents. There are multiple ways to create collaboration.
* Feedback from Stuart – Correy Kirkpatrick – concerns they had was no information until October. The city council had sticker shock. No background was given to Stuart prior to the meeting with the Advisory Council. The unknown from the residents of Stuart is their biggest concern.
* Don’t think that Stuart wants out of the discussion just yet.
* Lack of communication from the Advisory council to the city council.
* Education for the community is the key to the success
* The key wording to utilize is that the same services we currently have but expand the services for the rest of the county. The goal is not to move ambulances from Stuart and Panora.
* Arber noted that there is another way which allow cities and townships to form their own district and tax only those citizens. This could cause more separation between rural and cities.
* Place a third entity to cover the gap. Aiming to improve the response time Where do you put the third service? Adair is a volunteer crew. Add one to Adair for a 12-hour shift and not have a full time. Guthrie Center/Bayard area would be a full-time crew.
* Use the words “better response time.” Instead of saying the goal will be to reduce response time to ten minutes.
* Adair County is very agreeable to work with the proposal.
* Start discussion again with Stuart and Panora city council.
  + Ask the city council to submit their proposal to the council.
  + Panora city council was interested this summer but didn’t have a draft at that time. Concern that Panora was accused that they were pulling out of the discussions.
  + Tim McDermott suggested giving them the current draft proposal that the advisory council created as a starting point. Have to have a base proposal, then build/tear down from there.
  + Panora City does subsidized their current EMS now with around $200,000.
  + Ask City council to ask small group to participate in the planning with our subcommittee.
* Time Frame – the BOS has 190 days prior to the general election to get it on the ballot. That would be May, 2024. Then need to sell it to the public.
* By the end of February to present it to the BOS– have to talk with township outside the county because of tax levy
* Timeline from the city council to form a committee – Stuart and Panora – get representative to meet with the subcommittee.
* Chris from Guthrie County Hospital spoke on working with the advisory committee – he will gladly work with the group. They have an ambulance bay and just bought a house and could use the house for sleeping arrangements for a crew until something permanent can be found.
* When starting to educate the public the group should do a frequency ask questions with responses to help council members and the advisory committee answers. Host town meetings.
* On the county website post the agenda and minutes, post link to the meeting for anyone in the public to listen to the committee.

Closed at 8:25 pm