Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

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

June 26, 2023 regular meeting

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

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

**Guests** – Jo Rasmussen, Levi Johnson, (new guys from EMS)

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

**Roll Call of Council members via sign in sheet**

**Approve Agenda** – Motion by Kuster seconded by Schwartz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Ask for public opinion** – none at this time

**Approve April 24, 2023 minutes**

* Motion by Dickson seconded by S. Richter to approve minutes. Motion carried.

**Review EMS Coverage Goals**

1. Ambulance Services
2. Decrease response time
3. First Responders
4. HIGH PRIORITY – EMS Coordinator, what are the cities yes and no and Adair. Will meet with the subcommittee. Work on the first responder program. Tammy and Jotham are certified instructors. Need to do a presentation to the hospital.

**Presentation from the Sub-Committee meetings**

* Arber gave an update from the sub-committee meetings. The subcommittee has come up with the following suggestion and discussion
  1. To meet the current needs the committee feels that another ambulance with full time staff with 24/7 and placed in the county.
  2. The county should consider hiring an EMS coordinator first to help with the process of organizing and working on the model.
  3. The committee looked at Scott County, Iowa (Davenport is the largest city) model. EMS services are county based with one EMS coordinator and one Medical Director.
  4. Long term the sub committee feels a county wide service is what the future.
  5. The biggest questions are what will the city be willing to do for now services and what the future for the EMS services. Would they be willing to help fund the first responder services to begin with. The city would maintain the staff and the county would own the equipment.
  6. The committee suggest doing a random poll/survey to the county residents asking what they be willing to fund for EMS. Discussion to educate the public prior to make sure they understand what EMS means to them.
  7. Another suggestion is having a special election if they don’t want to wait until the fall of 2024. Dickson didn’t think that local county could do a special election.
  8. The sub-committee suggest we go ahead and get another full-time ambulance to start phase one to fill the gap.
  9. The next step is talking with cities.
  10. Will have to talk with Adair County also for planning

**Discussion**

* Arber gave a recap of coverage goals for the advisory council.
* The new Hospital Executive Director starts in August.
* Panora EMS has a new director
* The City of Panora will be getting a new mayor
* The City of Stuart will be looking for a new city manager toward the end of the year.
* Discussion on what Adair County covers in Guthrie. Grant, Bear Grove, 1 mile into Audubon township in Audubon, and a couple of townships in Adair.
* Arber has talked with some people on what a first responders would like. Many would be willing to train.

**Funding and Taxing suggestions**

* Arber gave an estimate of $704,726 would if property taxes are chosen. This would be if a 75-cent levy would be applied. Arber will work with County Auditor on what the tax revenue might be because the whole county needs to be taxed and not leave out the RIZ.
* Could be another two years before the tax funding would come in for use for the county.
* Dickson would look at how the funding would work prior to getting the tax revenue.
* The revenue from the property taxes won’t be able to fund the initial cost but, in a few years, following it should be enough to cover with the yearly cost.
* Question on how much money for first response and/or 789,000 with a 75-cent levy.
* Budget of 2.2 million to run a full county wide EMS service.

**Discuss/Action/Questions**

* Suggestions

**Discuss/Action**

* Date/Time of next meeting – July 24, 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed at 8:26 p.m. Schwartz motion seconded Arber to adjourn. Motion carried.