Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

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

March 27, 2023 EMS 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 | 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 | Yes | Julie Neilsen, Bayard EMS | No |  |  |

**Guests** – Brian Johnson, Pat Parker, Maggie Armstrong, Shawn Hemmingsen, Molli Lloyd, Levi Johnson, Luke Dahl

**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 McDermott seconded by Cooper to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

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

**Approve February 27, 2023 minutes**

* Motion by Arber seconded by McDermott to approve minutes. Motion carried.

**Review EMS Coverage Goals**

1. Ambulance Services
2. Decrease response time
3. First Responders

**Slide presentation of Models for EMS Coverage – by Jotham Arber**

1. Contract with a private EMS service
2. Fund City ambulances – keep current model
3. County First Responders and city ambulance
4. Consolidation into a County wide EMS
   1. Types of Consolidation
      1. Creation of nonprofit
      2. Payment to cities for equipment
      3. Complete new service
      4. Affiliation

**Discussion by council members to decide the best model to work on**

* Think about the type of services that our county needs and the best place to oversee the consolidated version such as hospital based, public health services, independent council.
* State of Iowa is trying to come up with a standard protocol standard and every EMS will have to meet those guidelines.
* Pro of combining would be paying better wages will help with retention of staff. Might help with the burn out rate and stress of making ends meet.
* Doesn’t think one of the cons for any of the models would be consolidating medical director and protocols. Think they would be blend well. Should pay the medical director. Get someone who cares about the county and will be proactive.
* To do determine which model would be the best is to ask what are the outcomes for each model.
* Would there be any private EMS that would come to Guthrie County – yes there are companies.
* Concerns about coverage that the company will promise.
* Last one looks like the best model for all of county residents.
* Still needs to have sprint cars for the last model.
* Suggestions on paying the cities to “lease” their current equipment with a payment plan for the next 5 to 10 years and keep the same sites but also increase the services area if using the last model.
* Public perception is easier to sell to the county residents.
* Would need an EMA director if consolidation.
* Look at the geographical area on best place to keep the services.
* Concerns about the cities losing their services they currently providing
* Develop a mission statement and educate the residents is very important and stay the course.

Arber made a motion seconded by Kuster for the council to accept the Consolidation into a County wide EMS model to research and create. Motion carried with 13 ayes and 0 nays.

**Funding and Taxing suggestions**

* Income Tax
* Property tax
* Combination tax and property taxes
  + Reminder that revenue won’t just come from the taxes but also funding from services provided.
  + Off set revenue with the expenses would then fall on the tax burdens.
* How will we split services between Adair and Guthrie; Guthrie and Audubon; Guthrie and Dallas County.

**Discuss/Action/Questions**

* How will the consolidation plan for funding work with the cities
* Some questions to ask city councils – feeling about their equipment going into the consolidation, how they would feel about getting rid of the burden of the fiscal cost, ask the city if they would lease the equipment and the use of their building.
* Do think about branding of the county wide for pride
  + Guthrie County /Panora site
  + Guthrie County/Stuart site
  + Guthrie County/Adair site
* How will the funding work with Adair Ambulance Services

**Discuss/Action**

* Date/Time of next meeting – April 24, 2023 7 pm
* Motion by Bireline seconded by McDermott to develop a subcommittee to work on the model. Motion carried.
  + Subcommittee members will be Sean Bovinett, Alex Olsen, Jeremy Cooper, Jotham Arber, Tammy Bireline and Matt Richter.
    - This committee will meet April 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m. McDermott motion seconded Schwartz to adjourn. Motion carried.