Minutes for Guthrie County EMS advisory committee

January 30, 2023 EMS meeting

**Opening meeting** by Mike Dickson, Board of Supervisors

**Election of Officers**

Nominated Dr. Steven Bascom as Board Chairman

Nominated Jan Mueller as Vice Chairman

**Call to Order -**  Mike Dickson, Board of Supervisor representative opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Approve Agenda** – Motion by Dickson seconded by McDermott to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Council Organization**

* Motion by McDermott seconded by Kuster to nominate Mark Laughery as Council Chairman. Motion carried.
* Motion by Olesen seconded by Laughery to nominate Tim McDermott as Council Vice Chairman. Motion carried.
* Motion by Dickson seconded by Kuster to nominate Jotham Arber as Council Secretary. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Council members**

* Matt Richter – Adair EMS
* Alex Olesen – Panora EMS
* Shawn Bovonett – Stuart EMS
* Amanda Waltz – Guthrie County Hospital
* Mike Dickson and JD Kuster – Guthrie County Supervisors
* Jotham Arber – Guthrie County Public Health
* Tim McDermott – NE Region; Don Schwartz NW Region; Stacy Richter SE Region; Tammy Bireline SW Region
* Mark Laughery – Central Region
* Unable to attend – Jeremey Cooper Guthrie County EMA; Julie Neilsen Bayard EMS

**Roles and Duties by Council members**

1. Dickson noted that Guthrie County Board of Supervisor passed a resolution stating that EMS will be deemed an Essential Service. The resolution includes creating an Advisory Council to advise the board of supervisors. The choices of the council and supervisors will be to accept the resolution with no further funding or advise the supervisor to get funding

**Information shared by Panora, Stuart and Adair EMS**

1. EMS crew shared a breakdown for charges. These are based on level of service provided by the EMS during a call.
   1. Panora – January 2021 to December 2021 there was 1.1 million dollars were billed but only collected 50% of the revenue.
   2. Panora stated that services were provided for the same time frame was billed to the following: 21% Commercial Insurance; 15% Iowa Medicaid; 41% Medicare and 19% is private pay
   3. Adair is funded by donations and insurance payments only. Not city or county tax dollars are received.
   4. None of them charge for lift assist for residents unless there is more care needed. Adair does charge a person if they are habitual caller but they don’t collect very much revenue.
   5. EMS use an outside billing service which takes 8% for processing.
   6. Stuart receives funds from the Hotel/Motel tax from City of Stuart.
2. Crews for the EMS – One crew consists of one EMT and one qualified driver
   1. Stuart has one full time crew
   2. Panora has two full time crews
3. Coverage for the EMS services
   1. Panora covers Yale, Jamaica, Bayard, Guthrie Center, rural areas and Panora. From Panora to Bayard it takes an average of 26 minutes to respond.
   2. Panora does transfer clients from Guthrie County Hospital and Audubon County Hospital to Des Moines Area Hospitals.
   3. Panora had 661 calls by EMS
   4. Adair noted that they had six calls that could not be responded by Adair EMS
   5. Adair did 68 calls with six unable to respond
4. Concerns from EMS
   1. There can be problems with Wireless Cell phone 911 calls – they are supposed to be routed to Guthrie County Sheriff’s office but there has been calls sent to Warren County or Greene County.
   2. First responders are needed as well as volunteers.
5. Medical director
   1. Stuart EMS has Dr. Jones
   2. Adair EMS has Dr. Pearson
   3. Panora EMS has Dr. Strehle

**Discussion by Council members**

1. The council is aware there will need to be community education
2. Dickson and Kuster shared the time from if the supervisors decide to have an election for increase taxes for EMS Services. Notice to public for a vote for increase taxes will need to be announced 60 days before election in November. By the end of summer, a decision will need to be made.
3. The committee would like to see what is the cost per year for each EMS

**Next Schedule meeting dates**

* Decision to meet monthly on the last Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Public Health Office. An agenda will be sent out to members by the Wednesday prior to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:24 p.m.