Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

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

December 18, 2023 regular meeting

**COUNCIL MEMBERS –**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Matt Richter, Adair EMS |  | John DeLavergne, Panora EMS | Yes | Sean Bovinett, Stuart Rescue |  |
| Amanda Waltz, GC Hospital | Yes | 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 |  | Tammy Bireline, SW Region |  | 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, Levi Johnson, Logan Wolf

**Call to Order -**  Mark Laughery, Chairman opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

* Would like to keep the time set at 7:00 p.m.
* Subcommittee that was created by this Advisory Council has been dissolved.

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

**DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSAL BY PANORA CITY COUNCIL FOR EMS**

* Shared an email from Sean Bovinett regarding proposal from Panora City Council. Sean was unable to attend.
* Concerns about what needs will be in the western part of the county – discussion was how many hours would be needed in that area.
* Discussion on the satellite site in the proposal needs to be kept in the city limits in Guthrie Center.
  + Would be easier access for workers to find resources on food, other items. Also needs to be in a controlled environment for the vehicles.
  + Having it in Guthrie Center does decrease the response time in Bayard and the western part of the county.
* In the map that was used was based on fire districts but should be EMS districts. Not sure why this map was used.
* Panora proposal does not address any of the needs on the western side of the county. If we are going to get the residents to vote on this, we need to show EMS needs such as calls, or where the money is going.
* The law does explain how the funding is paid out.
* 75% of the new taxes to the City of Panora per proposal. This is locked in for 10 years.
* This proposal does not address coordinator for all services, sharing the cost of medical supplies. Also the administration cost. Currently $200,000 is what City of Panora is giving their EMS services.
* Is the taxes taking care of the short fall of Panora issues. The contract needs to say if they are still transporting Audubon and Guthrie hospital to other hospitals.
* This proposal does not look like it changed from the original proposal. Does this proposal fix all the issues or will there still be deficits and gaps in ten years.
* Why the council proposal includes all entities will cover the gaps which includes the Adair area. The idea is 12 hours service during the day because Adair is all volunteer services. They will take care of the evenings. Panora proposal does not cover those issues.
* EMS district
  + Protect the current services but also expanded current coverage to those gaps in the county to reduce the response time especially if tax dollars are used.
* What is doable and how can we make this work for all residents to get them to vote for this
* What happens if both cities pull back out of if it isn’t working.
  + Would like representative from each town/township that will advise how the money is spent.
  + If the county took the financial burden but there is a contract with the cities to cover the employees.
* The main goal is to get it to the ballot
* Set up an EMS Trust Fund/Council – this needs to be approved by the BOS before.
* Town hall meetings needs to be crucial for the resident to vote on.
* Administrative side and how that should be structured.
  + Such as billing – do you have an administrative team do the billing.
  + All employees could be shared by each city but funded by the taxes. How does that work? How do you structure that to work with city.
  + You can move resources around to help defray the cost
  + Guarantee in the contract that Panora and Stuart keep ambulances in their area and they won’t lose their units.
* Why does the city want to keep services that are losing money each year instead of getting help from a county wide services.
* The hospital board wants to keep all county residents to have services no matter where they live. Pulling services together.
* Don’t use the wording “replacement of services” make it sounds like the current ambulance could be moved. It can be included in the contract that housing of the current ambulance in Stuart and Panora.
* The max of 15 years on any contract. State that an ambulance will be stationed in Stuart and Panora. Is that the holdup for working with the counties?
* Currently the cities have 28E with townships. The only thing the county supplies is dispatch through the sheriff’s office.
* What is holding up it going to BOS?
  + The same concerns that the council has about the longevity of current systems. Does the county open up a third service with the gap area being covered? Townships could decide to join with any of the
  + We don’t know what each service needs to actual to do their jobs.
  + What are we asking Guthrie Center/Bayard and western townships to pay for?
* $965,000 could be the asking tax levy at 75 cents.
* There will be an agreement with Adair County. Should be in a contract. The county of Adair is looking at how Guthrie County works this out, because they might have to do that.
* Levy for cities resident would go away if the tax levy is voted on.
  + Town of Adair and the township would have to decide if they want to join and then they would be taxed.
* Create an out clause, the wording of placements had concerns,
* Fear and control – think most of this can be fixed with language in the contract
* Are there examples from other counties to review.

A new subcommittee was formed to meet with members of Panora and Stuart city council members. After this meeting the subcommittee will give an update to this Advisory Committee

* Mike Dickson, Mark Laughery, Jeremy Cooper
* 2 - 3 members from Stuart city
* 2 - 3 city council from Panora
  + Thursday, January 4th at 7 pm meet in Panora at Fire Hall.
* Next Advisory committee meeting will be on January 29 at 7:00 p.m.
* February 12 at 7 pm
* February 26 at 7 pm.

TIMELINE

* Hard stop by first of March 5th to get to Board of Supervisor
* 190 days before the election – which is May. The BOS has to vote on it.
* The ballot language can be vague
* A new council will be formed to work out the 28E, contract and actual wording on how all the inner working

Closed at 7:35 pm.