Minutes for Guthrie County EMS Advisory Council

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

February 27, 2023 EMS meeting

**Call to Order -**  Mark Laughery, Chairman opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

* Matt Richter – Adair EMS
* Levi Johnson – Panora EMS
* Luke Dahl, Stuart Rescue
* Amanda Waltz – Guthrie County Hospital
* Jeremy Cooper – Guthrie County EMA
* Mike Dickson and JD Kuster – Guthrie County Supervisors
* Jotham Arber – Guthrie County Public Health
* Tim McDermott – NE Region; Don Schwartz NW Region; Tammy Bireline SW Region
* Mark Laughery – Central Region
* Unable to attend – Stacy Richter SE Region; Julie Neilsen Bayard EMS

**Approve January 30, 2023 minutes**

* Motion by Dickson seconded by Johnson to approve minutes.

**Discussion roles and duties of the EMS Advisory Council in depth**

* Laughery reminded the members what the council will be responsible for.
  + What is the needs for the EMS
  + Timeline for recommendations to supervisors
* What does EMS look like in Guthrie County in the next 5 year and next 10 years.
  + The needs of the county for EMS need to be the first priority and then the funding.
  + RN could be used to assist with calls
  + Hospital could help with training for the exempt part for the RN to become a paramedic.

**Current budgets and shortfalls**

* Arber presented budgets for Panora, Stuart and Adair EMS for the current year.
  + See attachment for the spreadsheet presented to the council
  + 6 full time staff to day 1, day 2, day 3 each 24 hours; Panora factors in overtime in their current budget. To effectively cover areas could use 8 full time staff.
  + Question not to pay overtime and get part time staff.
  + One of the cons of part time is they have another job that might take priority over calls
  + Would like the goal to be under 10 minutes for response time anywhere in Guthrie County.
  + Cost of software for training and equipment, uniforms should be factored in any budget.
  + How to increase collecting revenue for charges.
    - Base rate for return offenders
    - Use billing service but before write off is done try with another way to collect.
    - Lifequest Billing Services is used by Panora and Stuart.

**Discuss EMS Coverage plan**

* Arber gave an update on models for EMS that he has been reviewing.
* Combination can be considered by using sprint cars that are paramedic equipped but they can’t transfer
* Sprint cars have to be supported by ambulance crew and regulations.
* Sprint cars can be spread out around the county
  + Response time by EMS is shortened
  + Early response is what saves people.
  + 81 to 82 miles per hour with ambulance. Sprint can be around 100. Partner with fire departments to house.
  + Park other places than Panora and Stuart.
  + Easier to maintain the SUV.
  + Questions about the use of the sprint car but what about transport.
  + By using the hybrid model – sprint cars come in handy with assist with lifting only.
  + Panora has 3 ambulances
  + Sprint – needs to have a paramedic so the proper care can be done. You can use EMT but changes the scope of care.
  + Expenses on helping with cost of paramedic training. Public health has assisted with sending paramedic training for EMT training through their emergency grants.
  + Assist with training cost
  + First response model in Dallas County is a good one to look at.

**Suggestions**

* Have EMS share the same medical director and be on the same protocol. Suggestions is to work with the hospital providers, medical directors.
* Having 3 different transport services in the county.
* Medical director can set the protocol – procedure and treatment might be different with each medical director. Iowa has overall medical protocol. These are based also on the level of what paramedics can or might do. Liability is high on the medical director. Medical director has to be a MD or DO.
* Also remember that Adair and Stuart work in other county. How will that work for the funding stream.

**County funding**

* County wide tax if put into place – would it negate the township and cities funding.
* What does using the hospital role with the EMS?

**Needs for each county from the EMS**

* Need 3 trucks with fully staff with a 2 person crew.
* Sprint car would be staff with 1 full time. Possibly in Guthrie Center – look at the response time would help with deciding the dead spots in the county.
* Dallas County EMS – spent 2 million dollars. There is one ambulance that can transfer by Granger. Cut out Waukee and West Des Moines because they have their own individual services.
* There are many calls that come from the nursing homes
* Levi – will share a breakdown from Dallas County EMS.
* Money is a big problem but also man power.
* Training for those who work full time. Suggestions on having trainings locally.
* Recommendation needs 3 ambulance and 1 sprint car should cover the rest. $550,000 to man one bus. 1.5 million. Then another $270,000 for the sprint car. Includes the operational – fuel, for Panora EMA
* Look at the total revenue and expenses to cover all services needs to be the next financial goal.
* Stuart is looking to be able to provide 2 ambulances with volunteers assisting with what they currently have. Stuart could pay for 2 paramedic but spread them in each ambulance.
* Concerns about selling this to the public. Explain to the public that a new model might have to be the way to go because of the funding.
* Concerns from the community about making sure they are getting services for the funding.
  + EMS won’t be able to continue with the current rate of funding.
* Suggestion is two ambulance and 2 sprint cars might get the response time down and improved.
  + Arber will create several plans to present at the next meeting.
  + Is there any grants that we can look at.
* Look at regionalization of the EMS. Might be a goal to help with funding from the federal and state funding/grants.
* Can possibly get donations to help with purchase of equipment.

Panora is a city entity EMS. Questions about asking for levy taxes has to go to the county. Will need to do research on the legal funding. Look at the property tax and income tax funding. Concerns about doing the income tax because of the residents from the Lake Panorama. Changes in state legislative.

Council needs to have a picture of the plan to get in the BOS. Maybe call it a county entity and or call it an associations.

1. Full out county owned services
2. County governing board and use 28 e agreement to work with the city – create an association
3. Or keep the system as it is.

* Questions about the township about levy with 25 cents for Panora EMS currently
  + For most of the township they have between 20 and 25 cents for Panora
  + Concerns about townships not having the funding
    - Show the maximum amount and the council will work with the township. Show good faith.

**Next Schedule meeting dates**

* Information the Council requires for next meeting
  + Goal for next meeting get a goal of what is needed.
* Date/Time of next meeting
  + Last Monday of the month – 7 pm. March 27, 2023 at public health
* Adjourn meeting

**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 8:55 p.m. Schwartz motion seconded McDermott to adjourn. Motion carried.