

EMS Board Meeting Minutes

08OCTOBER2019

1700 HRS Meeting called to order by Chairman Stecker

Public discussion was had.

Introduction of guest: Kerrie Hull, Calhoun County EMS

The EMS Board welcomed Kerrie and invited her to share information about the EMS System in Calhoun County.

The EMS System in Calhoun County started out by hiring a full time director to help with the administrative burden of the smaller volunteer services. After a short time, the services became more and more dependent on others to cover their staffing issues, and eventually Calhoun County took over the majority of EMS coverage in Calhoun County. Currently with 2 sites, 24/7 coverage, this is covering the entire county, with the help of first responders in the cities themselves. Calhoun County still has a couple services that are able to transport.

Calhoun County has 9 FT employees and some PT/PRN. The System has a countywide roster allowing all EMS Providers to assist in any area of Calhoun County.

Funding for the County System / Service is provided by the county.

1805 Kossuth County Attorney, Todd Holmes, began discussion about agreements. At this point the Board needs to decide the difference between a system and a service and which direction you desire to go.

Attorney Holmes agrees with the idea of needing a system coordinator, but questions how just assisting with administrative burden help the overall funding and staffing issues that we are seeing today?

After extensive discussion, the EMS Board decided that they would like to take the first recommendations to the Kossuth County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday 10/15/2019.

A motion was made by Nelson with a second from Albers to recommend:

“The Kossuth County EMS Board recommends that EMS in Kossuth County should become one service.

Each individual community will maintain their current authorization level and equipment, as to provide the best prehospital care possible for as long as they can. These individual community departments will be managed by Kossuth County.

All equipment would be signed over to Kossuth County for ownership responsibilities (insurance, maintenance, tracking, etc.). An EMS Coordinator will assume responsibility for administrative roles.

Any funds that the volunteers currently have will remain with that groups volunteer association; furthermore, if a volunteer association wishes to fundraise for special projects those funds would be used as such.”

The EMS Board also recommends that any fund allocated for the purchase of an ambulance, by any current service, be placed on hold until further direction can be decided.

Roll call vote was conducted with all in favor.

Gary Merrill, Director of Algona EMS asked, “What about the full time staff we currently have, would they be absorbed by the county or would they need to re-apply?”

Amber Garman, Auditor, advised that the position would have to be posted and applications submitted. County Attorney Todd Holmes agreed.

Amber Garman was asked about funding options. She presented a number of options that she has researched and discussed with other counties who are currently funding EMS.

Ryan Nelson stated that he is 100% against a property tax funding this option. He feels that rather than taxing property owners it should be everyone who pays for this service. A sales tax is what he would like to look at.

Amber Garman will continue to research the different options and bring them forward.

No action was taken on a system administrator agenda item. (This will carry over to the next agenda.)

A short break was taken and then members of the community were brought in for an open dialogue with a SWOT analysis.

Strengths

Weakness

Opportunities

Threats

The results of this (via photo) will be posted under references on the website.

A motion was made by Mark David and a second by Ryan Nelson to adjourn.

Motion Carried

Next meeting October 22, 2019 at the Emergency Management Office in Algona at 1900hrs.

