

## EMS Board Meeting Minutes

19SEPTEMBER2019

1900 HRS Meeting called to order by Chairman Stecker

Public Discussion was had.

Board reminded media that they have one point of contact, which is the chairman of the board.

David Foth asked about property taxes being raised, "I read something online about this board recommending an increase in property taxes." Chairman Stecker responded, "That has never been discussed. This board is exploring all options."

"Revenue must exceed expenses. We did not spend money we didn't have" Foth

Kossuth County Auditor Amber Garman will be invited to the next meeting to assist in tax questions and to weigh in on funding options.

Quorum established by roll-call:

Present: Nelson, Albers, Walker, Murphy, Tjaden, Davis, Stecker

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the presented agenda for 9/19/19 and minutes from the 8/27/19 meeting, Davis second the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted. All Yes

The board members were asked what their immediate priorities are for this board.

Nelson wanted to share some discussion that he had with Whittemore EMS personnel:

When considering our priorities Nelson stated, when he spoke with Whittemore staff, their concern was that they would no longer have an EMS service. They were also questioning if there was a county wide system who is in charge and where does their surplus fund balance go? The majority of the county service have a decent fund balance and don't feel they need to or should forfeit this balance. This would be a concern for not just Whittemore but all services.

Discussion was had about the option of having countywide management but allowing money donated to stay in those cities.

The Board discussed establishing priorities:

- 1) Draw up an agreement for services to work in a county system: **currently in progress with Kossuth County Attorney**
- 2) Establish A Vision/Mission Statement: this is to be referred to when the board feels they are getting off course and need to refocus their work.

**Mission Statement:**

**Every resident of Kossuth County and visitor should have timely access to EMS.**

**"Where you live should not determine whether you live."**

Motion was made by Nelson to make this the Kossuth County EMS Board's mission statement, with a second from Walker. A reverse roll-call was conducted. All Yes, motion passed

- 3) Establish administrative oversight of a county system.
- 4) By-Laws and articles of incorporations
- 5) Board of supervisors deem EMS an essential Service
- 6) Develop an EMS Structure
  - a. How it looks
  - b. What is the plan
  - c. What about our local services

At 1930 Jim Lester, Police Chief of Washington IA former Wright County EMA, came online to discuss how they developed the Wright county EMS System.

- 1) Developed an advisory board
- 2) Board of Supervisors deemed EMS an essential service
- 3) Took taxing option to the board.
  - a. Board decided to take 422 D to vote – Wright county went for a Property tax \$0.67 / 1000.
- 4) Chief Lester referenced numerous documents which are available on the Kossuth County EMS Board website.
- 5) Reassure citizens that they will not lose their local EMS services.
- 6) Importance of adding first responders to areas where service is not readily available. Also consider an ALS race vehicle.

After the conversation with Lester the board had a discussion regarding the information provided.

Davis – We are bigger than Wright County. It will cost more for us.

Davis - We need to hear from other individuals in Wright County to hear how the system is working, as well as hear from other systems.

Secretary Penton will arrange Wright county Supervisor to provide information. We will also invite Calhoun County EMS Director to visit.

Board continued discussing the priorities of an EMS system in Kossuth County. This board will first focus on: obtaining a system administrator to manage a county wide system, First Responder training around the county, and funding options.

Kossuth County EMS Board discussed setting dates for two different meetings. The first being a meeting with the Kossuth County Auditor, Kossuth County Attorney, and the Calhoun County EMS Director. The Second meeting to be held in Burt to conduct a SWOT analysis with the stakeholders of a Kossuth County EMS System: Law, Fire, Hospital, Supervisors, Cities, etc.

Mark Davis suggested that we start with an agenda for our next meeting. Meeting dates and agendas set for:

September 24, 2019 EMA Office 6:30 PM

October 8, 2019 Burt 6:30 PM

No action taken on Bylaws

No action on System Administrator. Board requested a job description be created for a Kossuth County EMS Administrator to be presented at the 9/24/19 meeting.

At 2109 a motion to adjourn was made by Davis with a Second by Walker. Roll-call vote was conducted and passed

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

David Penton

Kossuth County EMS Board Secretary