

Kossuth County EMS Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes 9/20/2022

5:05 PM Meeting called to order at 108 S Hall St Algona, IA by Chairman David Penton. Present Bierstadt, Vaske, Penton, Albers, Tjaden. Not present Larson and Tjarks. Also in attendance was Joanne Bode and EMS Charissa Mueller

5:05 PM No public discussion

5:05 PM Motion by Vaske to approve the agenda and minutes from the 8/23/2022 meeting Second by Bierstadt. Carried

The board was given a copy of the two sets of responses from the FAQ that were discussed at the last meeting on 9/6/2022. These will be used as educational information.

Sandee Vaske discussed with the Council an article that was in the Des Moines Register on Sunday about EMS and how the system is failing. It talks about exhausted resources.

Joanne Bode was present and had examples of educational materials. These included flyers, power point presentation, and social media information. These examples were reviewed and will have some minor adjustments made and made available in the near future to everyone. Joanne also talked about newspaper articles and letters to the editor that she would like to get done. She has already talked to the newspaper and they will publish what she gives them. Jodi asked if anyone in the services that would do a letter to the editor. Joanne thought it would be better coming from Advisory Council members. Jacob Tjaden thought it would be best to come from someone other than an EMS person, public individuals, retired business owners, well respected individuals. The council will work on this.

The presentations by Joanne were reviewed. Some changes will be made to some slides like the financials, tax levy information, generalize on properties rather than specifics. We need to make a slide that shows exactly how the tax money will be spent.

Phil had an example of a yard sign and purchase information. These signs would be paid for by the EMS Association and placed around the county by volunteers.

When Phil was asking the members of the for the approval to pay for the signs he was met with some resistance by a couple of the ems members from within the county. These individuals were making accusations that either Phil or the Advisory Council has a hidden agenda. It was made known to them that there is no hidden agenda. We are using all the numbers and information that was presented to them at the July 11 and July 12 joint meeting with the members of all the services in Kossuth County and the Advisory Board. This is when Option C was chosen as the best option to continue the system we have in place since 2020. These numbers have not changed in any way since those meetings. On August 16, 2022 there was a joint meeting with the Advisory Council and the Board of Supervisors to discuss the funding options available and make a final decision as to how to fund the system and to set the wording for the ballot language. Since that meeting all that has taken place within the Advisory Council is how to educate the public and to put together information to share with everyone. Phil will get the information we have on place currently on the county website.

Discussion was had on how to educate the public. Phil will setup a date and place to meet with all communities within Kossuth County by the end of October. Will do 3-4 meetings per week the month of October at 6:30pm Jacob will concentrate on the community club groups within the area and he will present to them.

Sandee Vaske would like to put a statement out that states the Advisory Council is in full support of Kossuth County EMS and Phil Albers as Administrator of the system.

We will use email to have final approval on all materials that will be released rather than a formal meeting. This is because we are just making some small changes to the original documents that were reviewed tonight. Joanne will take to the radio station for advertising on there.

There has been no date set for the next meeting. We will have one if needed during October otherwise we will be concentrating on the community events and advertising.

Phil will send out a copy of the community meeting schedule to everyone. These meetings will be setup to run from 630 to 730 and be an hour long each no more.

Motion to adjourn was made by David Penton and 2nd by Jodi Bierstadt at 6:25 PM

Respectfully submitted
Philip Albers, Secretary