**EMS an Essential Service in Kossuth County:**

1. The notice of first meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which the resolution is considered and voted on shall be published not less than 60 days prior to the date of the meeting.
2. The resolution shall be considered and voted on for approval at two meetings of the Board prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be finally approved by a majority vote.
3. Upon adoption of the resolution each county shall coordinate efforts with the local EMS agency to establish a county EMS Advisory Council to assist in researching and assessing the service needs and guiding implementation of the service. This council shall recommend to the Board an amount of funding to be specified on the ballot and if one or more of the taxes are approved at election, shall annually assess, and review the EMS needs of the county, and shall include the results in an annual report filed with the board of supervisors.
4. Annual report shall be publicly available, and the supervisors shall receive public comment regarding report.
5. The question of imposing a tax or combination of taxes shall be provided by publication at least 60 days before the time of election and shall identify the tax or combination of taxes and the rate or rates as applicable.
6. Requires a 60% of those voting to pass.
7. An ad valorem property tax may be imposed for property taxes due and payable in the fiscal years beginning after the fiscal year in which the election was held.
8. A local option income surtax may be imposed for tax years beginning on or after January 1 following the date the ordinance is filed.

Due to these timelines, we will not be able to have everything properly in place to have this on the ballot at the November election in 2021.

If we held a special election prior to June 30, 2022, we would be able to have the same opportunities as if the election was in November. This would result in beginning to receive tax dollars in the fiscal year beginning July 2023. The downside to this is the cost of holding a special election and historically there is a low turnout on special elections which usually results in the opposition to the ballot item having a higher turnout.

If we wait for the election in November 2022, we will begin to receive tax dollars in the fiscal year beginning July 2024.

I would like to see Kossuth County move forward and make EMS an Essential Service. When that is complete, we will get an advisory council in place, continue the work of the prior advisory board on the countywide service plan, work with all the EMS services in the county to meet their needs, have a budget in place for this service, decide on how to fund the budget for a county wide service, and educate the residents of the county. The we would be comfortably ready to have the wording and funding source published prior to the election.

We will also need to communicate with KRHC as the transfer agreement in place is good for 2 years and the City of Algona to assure continuation of the system we currently have in place.

Philip Albers

Kossuth County EMS