



401 Moorehead Street, Ida Grove, IA 51445 / 712-364-5777

The Ida County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) met on August 7, 2024 at 5:30pm at Horn Memorial Hospital Conference Room #3. The meeting was called to order at 1731 by Chair Larry Folk, with the following members present: Fred Anderson, Devlun Whiting, Shelby Ellis, Joyce Schnabel, Deb Ulrich, Megan Wellendorf, Gary Wanberg, Ken Langel, Corey Trucke, and Rachel Burns. William Vargas was also present.

Motion by Megan Wellendorf to approve the agenda, seconded by Gary Wanberg, all voting aye.

Motion to approve last month's meeting minutes by Devlun Whiting, seconded by Deb Ulrich, all voting aye.

Chair Larry Folk opened the meeting to public comment. No public comments were heard.

The group reviewed a proposal from Bacon Creek Design for engineering services for the renovation of the EMS facility. It was noted that Bacon Creek's fee schedule noted 2023 rates. The group directed Corey Trucke to confirm that there have been no significant changes to the rates provided. Motion by Ken Langel, seconded by Joyce Schnabel to approve the proposal, all voting aye.

The group reviewed a quote from GMD Solutions, INC in the amount of \$2031.38 for a wireless internet link to the Courthouse along with a switch and two access points for the building. Corey Trucke reported that there will be additional cost of around \$1000 for pole placement and cabling. Corey reported that the pole needs to be placed on city property and that he has already received an approved building permit and permission from them to proceed. Corey reported that this will ultimately save a substantial amount of money as the EMS facility can use the same firewall as the courthouse, and there will be no ongoing monthly fees after installation. This also will allow the EMS facility to utilize infrastructure already in place at the courthouse for any future camera or access control needs, which will save substantial amounts of money if those items are added during renovation. Motion to approve the quote by Joyce Schnabel, seconded by Ken Langel, all voting aye.

The group then discussed employee hiring. Megan Wellendorf reported that she and Corey Trucke had worked together using comparable pay from the Iowa Hospital Association and came up with a suggested wage scale, which was provided to the group. Megan reported that the numbers are a little bit old, and that new figures will be available in October. Discussion was held regarding "Years of experience" and the general agreement of the group was that it should be years of experience at that certification level.

The group discussed an interview/personnel sub-committee. Megan Wellendorf, Larry Folk, Joyce Schnabel, and Corey Trucke agreed to serve on this committee. Rachel Burns agreed to serve as an alternate if one of the other members is unable due to scheduling or a conflict of interest. Corey reported that Bob Welte, one of the current part time staff members also wants to participate in interviews. Corey reported that Bob would be a great addition as he has a large network of EMS



staff that he knows and significant clinical and administrative experience. Corey will coordinate with Bob to assist with interviews when the time comes. Further discussion was had on the role of the sub-committee, regarding hiring, discipline, and termination of employees. Corey reported that the County has a firm in place already that department heads can utilize for assistance in employment related concerns, disciplinary action, and termination. Corey stated his desire is to build a good organizational culture from the beginning as established organizational culture is hard to change. Corey stated his expectations of the employees will be very high. The group discussed the grievance process, and generally agreed that any grievances filed against the EMS Director would come to the EMSAC and to the Board of Supervisors, if necessary, as the Board of Supervisors has final decision-making authority.

The group discussed a hiring timeline, Corey reported that he plans to advertise the positions in September. The group briefly discussed scheduling and the number of employees to be hired. The current budget allows for 3 FTE employees in addition to the hours that Corey will cover. Devlun Whiting stated that he does not think that the EMSAC or the BOS need to authorize a specific number of employees, just that we need to stay within budget.

Corey reported that no temporary housing location for full time staff has been obtained yet but that he is working on it and will update the group next month. The target date for full-time staff to begin providing the service is still November 1.

Corey reported to the group that the County bonding process is moving forward, with funds expected to be available late September. The public hearing is August 13.

More discussion was held regarding replacement of the County Medical Director. Joyce Schnabel stated that Dr Fedderson has agreed to take on this responsibility. The group discussed a draft agreement between the County and the individual EMS agencies. Corey reported that under this proposed agreement, each individual service would decide whether they want to satellite/affiliate with the County or not. If they do affiliate with the county for compliance purposes, they would then decide what services they would like the county to provide and that could be changed at any time. Corey stated it would probably be more efficient to synchronize treatment guidelines, training and get these agreements in place upfront for agencies that want to participate when the medical director changes, rather than later. Further discussion will be held on September on this topic.

Motion to adjourn by Joyce Schnabel, seconded by Megan Wellendorf, all voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 1831 hours.

/s/ Larry Folk, Chair

/s/ Corey Trucke, Secretary