



111 E State Highway 175, Ida Grove, IA 51445 / 712-364-5777

The Ida County Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council (EMSAC) met on November 18, 2024 at 5:30pm at Horn Memorial Hospital. This meeting was rescheduled from November 5 (election day). Members present were Larry Fok, Deb Ulrich, Megan Wellendorf, Ken Langel, Devlun Whiting, Beth Schossow, Gary Wanberg, Charles Coll, and Dana Goodman. EMS Director Corey Trucke and Lead Paramedic Jen Ryen were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 1731 hours by Chair Larry Folk. Folk reported that we had just received bid documents that were largely complete today and entertained a motion to amend the agenda to discuss/approve/disapprove the building plans. Motion by Megan Wellendorf, seconded by Deb Ulrich to amend the agenda adding that item, all voting aye.

Last meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Beth Schossow to approve, seconded by Gary Wanberg, all voting aye.

Jen Ryen introduced herself to the group. The group also introduced themselves.

The meeting was opened to public comments, none heard.

Chair Larry Folk gave an update that he has been searching for grant and funding opportunities. Different sponsoring organizations were discussed. The group recognized donations from United Bank of Iowa in the amount of \$1000, Casey's General Stores in the amount of \$1000. The council expressed appreciation to those entities and also to Larry for pursuing these opportunities.

Updated Iowa Hospital Association Pay Scales were discussed. Corey Trucke and Megan Wellendorf reported that the data that we had been operating from for wages was a year old, and that new data came out during the hiring process. Lengthy discussion took place regarding wage scales and county raise times. Devlun stated that he was concerned that since wages had just been approved for EMS it may not be ideal to pursue any increases or changes at this time. Corey Trucke reported that he had submitted the wages as previously approved so that the new employees could start training as soon as possible and recognized the bad timing, but didn't want to delay hiring. Discussion continued. Motion by Megan Wellendorf, seconded by Charles Coll to recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the new IHA Wage scales effective January 6, 2025, all voting aye. The group further agreed that future wage increases should not be based on the IHA data and should be



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commensurate with what other County departments receive. New recommended wage scales are as follows: Paramedic: 1-4 years of experience: \$25.44, 4-8 years \$27.70, 8-12 years \$28.12, 12+ years \$29.34 and Lead Paramedic Position negotiable between \$26.44 and \$30.44.

The group held a lengthy discussion regarding bylaws. The EMSAC received an unsigned letter from Battle Creek Ambulance reporting that they were unable to fill the position on the EMSAC due to the current bylaws. The group discussed specific bylaws, the reasoning behind them, and whether changes should be made. Corey reported that the bylaws were constructed in a way as to prohibit any full time Ida County EMS employees from serving on the Council as that would always generate a conflict of interest, but the wording in them currently prohibits any full-time county employees or their immediate family members from serving in voting roles. All three ambulance services are having difficulty complying with this bylaw as it currently exists. After discussion, the group crafted changes to page one of the bylaws as follows:

“To avoid any conflict of interest, no full-time paid Ida County EMS employee or immediate family member of any full-time paid County EMS employee shall be eligible to serve on the council. If a full-time paid county EMS employee is appointed as a service director for one of the aforementioned agencies, they shall designate another party to represent their agency at Council Meetings. This section does not apply to Ida County elected officials.”

Corey summarized the net effect of this change will be that Dana Goodman, Shelby Ellis, Claire Sohm and Fred Anderson will be able to serve on the Council, but that Joyce Schnabel will not. Dana reported that Joyce had asked for her position to be replaced on the council due to time constraints. Motion to amend the bylaws as outlined by Beth Schossow, seconded by Devlun Whiting, all voting aye.

Corey reported that the EMS Department had purchased a 2020 Ford Explorer equipped with emergency lights & sirens from Ida County SO for \$2000 but that the vehicle required about \$6200 for a new transmission, tires, and brakes. Corey reported the vehicle is now in excellent condition and has 110,000 miles on it. Corey reported that the primary response vehicle is still being outfitted with radios, lights and sirens and it should be done this week.

An update on hiring was given. Corey reported that the personnel/hiring subcommittee consisted of Larry Folk, Megan Wellendorf, Rachel Burns and himself. Devlun reported that he had been contacted regarding concerns about the hiring process and investigated them and found that it was an appropriate process. Corey reported that we had 13 applicants, of

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which 7 were interviewed. Each candidate was asked the same 13 questions and ranked on their responses individually by committee members, which resulted in 52 individual metrics by which each candidate was ranked/scored and that is how hiring decisions had been made. Corey reported that he was surprised by the number and quality of applicants and that it was a very competitive process. Corey reported that at this time, Jennifer (Jen) Ryen (Rural Ida County) has accepted the position of Lead Paramedic, Tonya Dupre (Odebolt) has accepted the position of Full Time Paramedic, and that a 3rd individual is completing their pre hire physical on the 25th and can be announced after successful completion. Due to availability of new staff, the start date for full time County EMS coverage is now January 1, 2025, at 0800.

The group discussed temporary housing/accommodations for the EMS employees while building renovation is ongoing. Corey is working with the Board of Supervisors to identify area(s) in the courthouse that could be used temporarily, and that alternative options are to utilize hospital facilities when they are available and a local business that we could lease from. No action was taken.

Corey reported that Dr Veltri has been brought onboard as the Ida County EMS Medical Director and that Holstein Fire/Ambulance have already transitioned to Dr Veltri as well, and that Corey is working through the process of getting Galva transferred, as well.

Larry reported that he had just received word that NorthStar Community Credit Union will also be providing funding in the amount of \$5000 which should cover an additional ISICS radio for the backup vehicle. The group applauded NorthStar for the donation and Larry for pursuing funding opportunities.

Next meeting is December 3, 2024, at 5:30pm at Horn Memorial Hospital in the conference rooms. Motion to adjourn by Megan Wellendorf, seconded by Charles Coll, all voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

/s/ Larry Folk, Chair

/s/ Corey Trucke, Secretary