

## Wapello County Emergency Medical Advisory Council

Minutes from Meeting held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

1. Roll Call: Tim R, Loren M, David C, Mike D, Bryan Z, Athena S, Amanda H, Mark F, Jean D, Cindy H
  - a. Absent: Billy Jr, Quincy, TJ M, Lori R
  - b. Others: Richard (ORHC) Will (WCRFD) Tyler and Joe (OFD)
2. Approve Minutes from previous meeting: Motion made by Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> by David all in favor
3. Committee Work: focused recap deliverables
  - a. Handout (page 2) #2 Main Focus Initiatives and Action Plan
    - i. 6 initiatives will form focus groups on each of these
4. 2026 EMS System Standard Deliverable: One set of county-wide protocols & electronic CQI process
  - a. One-Dose will have the protocols on it and there is a free version that is capable of handling what we need for now.
  - b. Mark will be sending out the updated protocols after the hospital PNT team approves it.
  - c. If you look up Iowa County Protocols, they are very similar to the new ones as they merged theirs with ORMICS current ones
  - d. Education will have to be done once the protocols are approved by PNT Team
  - e. Patient care guidelines not protocols
  - f. Dr. Lyssy will sign and send out to all services
5. Ideal EMS System Vision Document \*
  - a. Sections C.2, C.3
  - b. What's missing: who owns and operates the core
  - c. Discuss partnership options for the core
6. Discussions with local income tax professionals
7. Other Discussion
  - a. \*The following notes below are in coordinates with #5 on the agenda as #5 was talked about deeply in many different directions
  - b. Henry County was the most recent county to pass the EMS tax and they did hold a special election for this.
  - c. Bryan Zeigler
    - i. talked with ORHC-CEO and OFD over the last couple of weeks and talked about getting ORHC getting compensation for current services they are doing
    - ii. Also wanted to talk with Appanoose County on how they use income & property tax to fund the City Ambulance.
    - iii. Time to act if we want something on the ballot for this November
    - iv. Up to 1% of income tax can be used for funding
    - v. Up to \$1.50 of property taxes per \$1,000.
    - vi. Knows that the City would not be able to fund it alone.
    - vii. 28E agreement with city from county (Landfill is this way)
    - viii. County has bond agreements as well available.
    - ix. Options are open from county to city.
    - x. Special Election may not be the best choice as they do cost \$ to have them
  - d. Richard (CEO at ORHC)
    - i. Over the last week he has had conversations with OFD (David & Sean) and City of Ottumwa Administrator Phil and Finance Director Cole
    - ii. He talked about how he has been with ORHC for 6 months now and that he likes EMS

- iii. Talked about what the transition to change out from ORHC to some other service would look like
- iv. Would like to talk about giving up the entire system to a new system that has a strong framework
- v. Currently sitting at 1.2 million under water with equipment
- vi. Believes that \$500,000 year in tax \$ would cover maintenance to equipment
- vii. He did ask who runs the new service? How to manage employees? How is it going to be sustainable? What equipment would be needed?
- viii. Outside \$ to help get something started?
- ix. Not about control it about service.
- e. Tim (Wapello County EMA)
  - i. He has also met with David, Sean, Phil
  - ii. They talked about the framework that OFD has
  - iii. End of May OFD is to give framework to City Council
  - iv. 180-240 days for hospital to get of ambulance
- f. Other discussions:
  - i. If OFD was to take over it would take over County Wide not just City of Ottumwa calls
  - ii. ORHC can not let it go until a strong service is able to take over
  - iii. What would staffing look like?
  - iv. Changing the outside of the ambulance will not change or affect volunteer communities
  - v. 60-65% Medicare/Medicaid paid calls
  - vi. Non-Profit and or county/city-based services do have more access to funds
  - vii. Partnerships still have to be no matter who is running the service
  - viii. We have to get ourselves straight before we go to the tax payers
  - ix. It costs approxmently \$380,000 for a brand-new empty ambulance
  - x. Would need around \$1.2 Million just to start a service
  - xi. We need to make a great 1<sup>st</sup> Impression as this is our 1 shot at Tax Payers however if the 1<sup>st</sup> go around fails that does not mean we are done however we will need to do lots of marketing either way
  - xii. There are grants available for Integrated Health and Community Paramedicine which could put a provider in a vehicle to go check on some of the frequent flyer call areas; Currently Leon Iowa has a system like this doing home safety audits, medication questions. There is currently 7 pilot programs along with doing telehealth.
  - xiii. One concept that we will have to address to the Tax Payers is that they believe they are already paying for EMS service and they are not.
  - xiv. We could estimate around \$650,000 from income tax each year.
  - xv. In the marketing aspect of this we need to inform people with EMS is today from what it was back in the day
  - xvi. Forming a non-profit service would allow us to apply for \$ from groups like the Legacy Foundation however we need to figure out what that money would be used for or what it is allow to cover
  - xvii. Back up ambulances in the near future for ORMICS will include OFD once theirs is approved by the State and Blakesburg advises they have 2 ambulances
  - xviii. There will be a smooth transition from ORHC to the new service and it will not be a dump job. Hospital will still be a partnership with the new service as well.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30pm held at the Wapello County EMA office

9. Motion to call meeting to end by Loren 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim all in favor.