

June 14, 2023

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in a special joint session with the EMS Advisory Council. Supervisors Seeman, Primmer and Bierschenk were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the conference room at the Benton County Emergency Operations Center.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously. Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyia.gov

The purpose of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council is to take all the different factors to determine what the cost for EMS services in Benton County a year is. Following up from last meeting's request for data, Anna DeMuth, Director of North Benton Ambulance has prepared a presentation. Demuth compiled the call history and other documentation to provide an oversight of the costs using the number of calls per area, salary ranges, vehicles and supply costs. The amount of write offs from Medicare/Medicaid was also concerning and how the revenue concerns play a huge factor. Trying to determine a levy amount that would be most effective in helping offset the shortage. The Council looked at different tax impact options knowing the amount can't be above .75 per \$1,000. The unanimous top concerns and issues from all were staffing, recruitment and retention of employees. Training costs and continued education for the staff along with cost of replacing equipment. These things all led to other important discussions such as mandated levy for fire but not for EMS. Good Samaritan laws, workman's comp and how important it is having first responders or an ambulance show up when those calls come in. We need more individuals with a passion for rural EMS. Not having these resources and people to staff them could mean a life or death situation to any of us, it is not a matter of if, but when it will take place whether you are on a farm or inside the city limits.

The next joint meeting with the EMS Advisory Council for Thursday, July 15, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the EMA conference room at the Law Enforcement Center. Motion carried.

Primmer moved/Seeman seconded: To adjourn. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor