UNAPPROVED APRIL MEETING MINUTES

FLOYD COUNTY EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date:	April 23rd, 2024
Time:	5:00 P.M.
Meeting called to order by:	Patrick Lumley

IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Patrick Lumley, Dawnett Willis, Dave Luett, Dawn Staudt Jeff Sterling
Non-Voting Members: Jim Jorgenson, Marty Parcher, Kendall Nolt and Brandy Molitor

Public: Mayor Dean Andrews, Bob Steenson of the Charles City Press and Supervisor Dennis Keifer

Meeting Called to Order by: Chair-Pat Lumley at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made Dawnett W.
Second by Dave L.
Action Taken: Agenda approved by council.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Motion made Dawnett W.
Seconded by: Dave L.
Action Taken: March minutes approved by council.

Public Comment- Mayor Andrews suggested that the BOS and the EMS Advisory Council need to meet and discuss the goal of the council.

Agenda Item #5

Review/Action on EMS Tax Levy Periodicity recommendation IAW Iowa Code Chapter 422.D.1

Pat reviewed information that the council had previously obtained from other counties in Iowa that attempted, and successfully passed, the tax levy. Pat explained his point of view-on the struggles that most likely would be faced by not asking for a 15-year duration on the ballot. Pat also discussed what would happen if the tax levy passed; we would continue with the same 24/7/365 ALS/BLS service countywide, whether the service is AMR, the current provider or an "in-house" public run service. If the tax levy does not pass, then likely looking at reduction in current level of EMS service or elimination and or reduction of other city service e.g., public library, fire, public safety, to continue to support EMS in the county. The council agreed that it is not feasible to keep going back out to the public for a vote every 5-10 years or less than that periodicity based on difficulty in passing a referendum that raises taxes. This is true in every county that the EMS Advisory Council worked with.

Recommendation-Periodicity of 15 years made by Pat Lumley

Motion to recommend the 15-year periodicity to the Board of Supervisors- Made by Dave Luett

Second by Dawn Staudt

Roll Call- All EMS Advisory Council Members voted – Aye.

Action Taken-The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors will be made, for a 15-year periodicity to be placed on the ballot as part of the EMS Tax Levy ballot question.

Agenda Item #6 & #7

Review/Action on EMS Tax Levy Rate and Amount to Generate recommendation IAW Iowa Code Chapter 422.D.1

Pat discussed the total dollar amount to start-up cost, estimated at $1.25 million for an "in-house" ambulance service based on the most current cost projection provided by the Ambulance Commission. Pat emphasized the comments provided by the four other counties we worked with to not underestimate the actual and or projected costs starting up a public service and account for the 18-month lag on receiving any form of government subsidy via GEMT, factor in lag in revenue collection from Medicaid, Medicare, other private insurance providers and successful rate by collection agencies for past-due non-payment. The consistent message from all counties that successfully passed the EMS Tax Levy in 2023," do not underestimate the operational costs of a public ambulance service."

Pat discussed and provided examples of residential, business and agriculture tax estimations based on current rollback and actual cost per day to each entity. In subsequent discussion, all members agreed that the maximum amount via the levy rate was the sensible path. The council also echoed the amount, is an "Up to" amount and based on cost projections in further years, GEMT subsidy and solid reimbursements and other factors, the maximum amount may not be needed. The "Up To" amount is critical educational and communication aspect and will be part of the formal recommendation.

Motion by Dawn Staudt recommendation to set the tax levy amount at $0.75/$1,000 valuation, with an anticipated $776,000 that could be generated as of today.

Second by Dave Luett

Roll Call- All EMS Advisory Council Members voted - Aye.

Action Taken- The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to set the tax levy amount at $0.75/$1,000 to be placed on the ballot as part of the EMS Tax Levy ballot question.

Motion by Dave Luett-To collect up to but not to exceed the $776,000 annually based on the .75 Levy Rate.

Second Dawnett Willis.

Roll Call- All EMS Advisory Council Members voted - Aye.

Action Taken- The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to set the tax levy amount at $0.75/$1,000 to collect "Up To" $776,000 to be placed on the ballot as part of the EMS Tax Levy ballot question.

Agenda Item # 8

Review/Action on EMS Tax Levy Rate and Amount to Generate recommendation IAW Iowa Code Chapter 422.D.1

The council discussed at great length the use Property Tax, Local Option Income Surtax, or a Combination of both.

Pat's action item from the March EMS Advisory Council meeting was to gain more insight on the local option income surtax and report back to the EMS Advisory Council. Pat contacted the Iowa Department of Revenue to inquire about the exact details of the Local Option Income Surtax. The Local Option Income Surtax is based on the home address of the individual, i.e., if the person lives outside of Floyd County and works in Floyd County, the person is not subject to the Local Option Income Surtax. If the person lives in Floyd County and works in another county, the person is subject to the Local Option Sales Tax. The Local Option Sales Tax is a sister tax to the School District Local Option Sales Tax. Discussion on the view of the taxpayer in the previous initiative in every town hall and the view of double taxation and the negative mindset of the taxpayer even though the Local Option Sales Tax would reduce the amount of Property Tax collected.

Motion by Dawn Staudt -Only use the property tax to generate the necessary funding.

Second Jeff Sterling

Roll Call- All EMS Advisory Council Members voted - Aye.

Action Taken- The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to collect the "Up To" Amount via Property Tax only to be placed on the ballot as part of the EMS Tax Levy ballot question.

Agenda Item 9

Strategic Communication and Education

Bernie Soloman is working on a page for the EMS Advisory Council to place the Tax Levy flyer and the power point for easier public access. Brandy Molitor is working on creating an additional EMS page. Pat encouraged Brandy to contact Gloria Carr and ultimately the Board of Supervisors on guidance and allowable content since the website represents Floyd County as a whole.

Pat discussed calls for service in the county. When going out to present the information to the public-EMS, Fire and Police currently may be overlapping in how the ambulance calls have been figured into the numbers for call to service. Dawn is going to investigate more accurate numbers from AMR, and Jeff Sterling is accumulating the numbers for Greene Ambulance Service for calls in Floyd County.

MAY OPEN HOUSE

EMS Week Open House Review-Walking tacos, drinks, prizes, gifts, crafts, games for kids. May 22nd, tentatively from 4PM to 7PM. There will be grand prize drawings for kids and an additional one for anyone 16 and older.

Dawn will call and work with Mark Wicks of the Charles City Chamber, to place the open house on their calendar and create a flyer to be distributed around town and on several Facebook pages.

Announcement:

Pat is stepping away from the Advisory Council due to time constraints with his full-time job, City Council responsibilities and finding an adequate work/life balance. He will submit his letter of recommendation tomorrow with his last day of April 30th. Pat stated he would finish developing the EMS Tax Levy PowerPoint, draft the formal EMS Advisory Council recommendation report based on the council actions tonight and send back out to the EMS Advisory Council to review prior to sending to the Board of Supervisors.

Dawnett is working on the flyer through the hospital's advertisement company.

Next meeting agenda items
Appointing a new chair
PowerPoint-Next Agenda
Flyer
Scheduling time line for informational presentations.

Date and time of next meeting-TBD.
Motion to Adjourn -Dawn Staudt
Second Dawnett Willis
Action Taken: Meeting adjourned.