The Board of Directors of the Marion County Ambulance District met on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the Marion County Ambulance District Administrative Office. Board members attending were Chairman Dorothea Lake, Vice Chairman Branson Wells, Larry Coleman, Brian Fowler, Cheryl Arntzen, and Marie Frankenbach. Also attending were EMS Chief John Nemes, Chief Medical Officer John Clemens, Deputy Chief Marshall Miller, Division Chief Eric Murfin, Assistant Finance Director Kari Garrett, and AED Program Director Patty Cheffey.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Dorothea Lake.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Larry Coleman to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Brian Fowler. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

The treasurer’s report, accounts receivable reconciliation, profit and loss, and financial reports for May and June 2024 were reviewed.

Chief Nemes then presented the Board with the Chief’s report. MCAD answered 542 calls for emergency service in June. Base 1 (Hannibal) – 2711 handled 130 calls, 2721 handled 152 calls, Base 2 (Hannibal) handled 160 calls, Base 3 ( Palmyra) handled 83 calls, and there were 17 off-duty transfers.

Due to flooding concerns, multiple meetings were held with emergency management staff to preplan for the possibility of Main St. closing in Hannibal. Southside Baptist Church graciously offered the use of their facilities for EMS, police, and fire crews to stage on the south side if Main was closed to local traffic. Plans were made to stage personnel there, but never had to be implemented due to a drop in the predicted crest.

The District hosted a Child Passenger Safety Technician course. Several employees and Board President Lake received their certifications in the course. Captain Chris Kelle was sent to the Train the Trainer course and is now certified to instruct the CPST class in the future, helping keep District personnel up to date on their certifications.

There were multiple issues with Verizon regarding the installation of the dash cams, including 2 units having to be taken to the dealership to be diagnosed for electrical issues. Both issues were a result of poor installation on the dash cams. Verizon was contacted regarding the bills for repairing the units and they showed no urgency in reimbursing us for the damages. After multiple attempts to correct the situation, to no avail, the cameras were removed and returned to them. Other options for dash cams are currently being explored.

The Tourism Center is still in limbo after no progress was made in the legislative session. It will probably be another year before conveyance of the property can be revisited. After a tour of the facility, the building does not appear capable “as is” of being utilized for District use as a base. It will likely take an entirely new facility to meet the needs of the District.

The new Auto Pulse units from the ARPA grant have arrived and will be placed into service soon. Zoll personnel have also scheduled a training session for the crews.

There was discussion about making a new 5-year plan for the District, including starting in the Fall to discuss the replacement of trucks. Chief Nemes will be forming an advisory committee comprised of administrative and field staff, along with Board members interested in being part of the truck design process.

Chief Nemes also advised the Board of some challenges the supervisors have experienced with filling a vacancy on shift versus standby time. He wanted the Board to be aware of those challenges and to be thinking about possible resolutions for the future, including adding another staffed unit potentially.

Under New Business, the Board discussed the 50-year anniversary of the District. A tentative date of October 12, 2024, was set for a celebration. Discussion included a venue and catering to be provided to past and present employees.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Marion County Ambulance District Administration Building. Chief Nemes advised that this meeting will be a public hearing to set the tax rates for 2025.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Branson Wells to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marie Frankenbach and approved on a roll call vote.