

The Board of Directors of the Marion County Ambulance District met on Thursday, August 23, 2023, at the Marion County Ambulance District Administrative Office. Board members attending were Chairman Dorothea Lake, Vice Chairman Marie Frankenbach, Cheryl Arntzen, Brian Fowler, and Branson Wells. Also attending were EMS Chief John Nemes, Chief Medical Officer John Clemens, Deputy Chief Marty Miller, Division Chief Eric Murfin, Assistant Finance Director Kari Garrett, and Patty Cheffey.

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

First on the agenda was the public hearing to set the tax rate for 2024. Chief Nemes recommended to the Board that the operational portion of the proposed tax rate be reduced from 0.24 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation to zero. After public hearing and no further comment, the property tax was rolled back to zero on a motion by Branson Wells, seconded by Brian Fowler, and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

Next, Chief Nemes said the pension tax rate was capped at .0477 cents per \$100.00 by the state and he recommended the Board approve the tax as presented for 2024. A motion to approve the pension tax rate was made by Cheryl Arntzen, seconded by Marie Frankenbach and approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

The minutes of the last meeting held on July 12, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Marie Frankenbach to approve the minutes, followed by a second from Brian Fowler and approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

The treasurer's report, accounts receivable reconciliation, profit and loss, and financial reports for July 2023 were also reviewed.

Chief Nemes then presented the Board with the Chief's report. MCAD answered 576 calls for emergency service in July. Base 1 (Hannibal) – 2711 handled 137 calls, 2721 handled 142 calls, Base 2 (Hannibal) handled 197 calls, Base 3 (Palmyra) handled 70 calls, and we had 30 off-duty transfers.

The Administration building is still waiting for the siding contractor to do the siding. When that project is started, we plan to remove a window currently located in the server room and add a mini-split to keep the room cool. We have used a portable air conditioner to cool that room since the server was relocated there.

We have added an intranet page to our website, specifically for employees. Within the site is all the insurance and other benefits information, district forms, protocols, policy, etc. for employees to access at any time.

I will be traveling to New Orleans in September, along with 4 other employees chosen to attend the EMS World Expo. During that time, our goal is to focus on new equipment and training options, specifically geared towards critical care and community health paramedicine. Both will have a strong role in the very near future of EMS and we want to be ahead of the curve.

4 employees have been promoted within the district. Eli Bell was promoted to Captain to fill the vacancy created when Hannah Bowman dropped to PRN. Also, in a different twist, Sarah Steffen, Jason Darnell, and Donald Whitaker were promoted to Training Officer to fill the void created when Kyle Bowman left the district. Each one brings experience in different disciplines and the combined experience will be used to train our employees in more advanced treatments and critical care. We also want to begin training for community paramedicine and how it will apply at MCAD.

We met with several other agencies and the railroad to discuss train delays at local intersections in Hannibal. This is particularly a concern with public safety as construction on the 3rd street overpass will limit access to the south side of town for up to a year. Railroad officials heard our concerns and promised to do what they can to keep certain intersections open when a train is stopped for some reason.

We met with Hannibal Regional staff to discuss the transfer of patients on a 96-hour hold. Due to some changes, law enforcement can't provide timely, if any, transportation for those patients. We presented some options to HRH and everyone was in agreement with MCAD/RCAD handling the transfers as long as all safety criteria are met to better protect our employees.

There being no Old Business, the Board moved on to New Business. Chief Nemes presented the Ethics Ordinance that had been adopted in previous years. The adoption of this Ordinance eliminates the necessity of board members filing personal financial statements. Brian Fowler made a motion for the Ethics Ordinance to be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Branson Wells and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

Also under new business, the Board discussed the District pay structure. The Board discussed ways to raise the starting pay. Chief Nemes recommended paying off the trucks early to free up finances to raise the starting pay for both EMTs and Paramedics by \$1.00 per hour. A motion was made by Branson Wells to pay off the trucks early. The motion was seconded by Brian Fowler and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

The Board discussed ways to raise starting pay. After discussion, a motion was made by Marie Frankenbach to raise starting pay by \$1.00 for both EMTs and Paramedics. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Arntzen and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Marion County Ambulance District Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Branson Wells, seconded by Brian Fowler and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.