

Bremer County EMS Advisory Council

Bremer County EMS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes								
Date	Thursday 03-27-2025			Time	6-8PM			
Location	Tripoli EMS			Minutes Prepared By				
Members: (P for present)	P	Brunkhorst, Bob	P	Dierks, Rod	P	Everding, Dawn	P	Geise, Tom
	A	Happel, Dennis	P	Ladage, Kip	A	Matthias, David	P	Nedza, Nick
	P	Scanlan, Jason	A	Scharnhorst, Andy	P	Schnadt, Deb	P	Schutte, Jim
	A	Schumacher, Marv	P	Wedemeier, Dan				
Guests:	Joni Poppe, Waverly Health Center, Brandon Tieskotter, SEMS, Mike DeSloover, SEMS, Jeni Scanlan, Frederika First Responders, Cassy Hesse, Readlyn First Responders, Gary Carpenter, Plainfield First Responders, Mike Beaufore, Denver EMS							

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Nick Nedza, Council Chair.

Motion by Wedemeier/Schutte seconded to approve March 13, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Nedza shared that David Matthias reached out and shared that he intended to step down from the council. Request from Dierks to have Mike Beaufore replace him as the Denver representative. Brunkhorst shared this would have to be taken back to the Board of Supervisors to make the appointment.

Old Business:

Scanlan shared that the Facebook page for Bremer County EMS Association is live and will include the agenda and meeting minutes. Nedza shared story run by Waverly newspaper last week.

New Business:

Discussion regarding current funding streams from governmental agencies and how those could be affected with this process. This would be an additional item for consideration as discussions continue. At the present time, there are budgeted line items by Bremer County and City of Waverly for EMS services.

Total taxable valuation for Bremer County in 2024 was reported to be \$1,573,746,745, which was used as the reference point to present new taxes that could be levied for at different rates. Discussion of how agricultural land is taxed and shared that it is based on productivity. In addition to property tax levy option, the income tax surtax option was discussed with data provided from 2022.

A comparison billed revenue and expenses from the different service areas was provided to the group for reference. Discussion regarding current state of tax levy to be used for expenses other than personnel needs. The legislative proposal that is still moving in the 2025 session would allow tax levy funds to be utilized for salaries and personnel needs and remove restrictions that are currently in place. Discussion regarding what services are not being provided (missed calls) due to staffing shortages. This will need to be the focus on how to share this with the county taxpayers. Request made to present revenue and expenses in a more exact manner and to ensure that donations for any service are listed separately, as this is not guaranteed income.

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Nedza provided data from a survey that was completed by 40 agencies in Iowa representing billed services and average reimbursement rates for level of service provided by payor. Request made to provide specific payor information for Bremer County to determine percentages of the total ambulance runs are tied to each of the payor groups. There was a noticeable difference in reimbursement rates by payor. The purpose of the taxation would be to fill a gap. The gap that comes from the calls that each agency is not able to take due to lack of adequate staffing.

Bremer County EMS Association has held two meetings since the last meeting of this council to bring forward recommendations. The advice given from these meetings is that the funds from taxation needs to be focused on wages to keep the services staffed for a portion of the day. Discussion on different pay structures for different hours of work, on call, call time when on call and number of staff for each agency. It was shared that the equipment across the county in each of the different locations is all in good condition, with lack of staffing to run the equipment being the main issue. At the present time, there are ten vehicles across Bremer County, including both transport and non-transport.

Nedza shared that it is difficult to look at other plans that have been utilized due to the unique situation of having two critical access hospitals in the county and having one service in a county completing two-third of the total county call volume.

Discussion regarding a couple of different models and how those would work for the county. Several topics discussed related to different models, including who the personnel would be employed by and where that responsibility would lie, how would each agency equipment look, would it need to be standardized, insurance costs, billing company costs, supply costs. Some of these items could be looked at differently to allow the services to get better pricing.

Information requested from the Bremer County EMS Association for next meeting includes three years' data of payor mix from calls complete, detailed breakdown of costs, missed calls for each agency, and specific information on response time and call time.

Next meeting set for Thursday, April 10, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Geise/Wedemeier seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.