

Proceedings of the Special Ambulance Meeting

Clark County

January 26, 2021

The Special Ambulance meeting of the County Board met January 26, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Martinsville Fire Hall and was called to Order by Chairman Rex Goble. County Clerk Laura Lee led the pledge of allegiance and Board Member Jim Bolin led the meeting with a prayer.

ROLL CALL	6:00 P.M.
Rex Goble	District #1
Mike Brandenburg	District #2 ABSENT
Jim Bolin	District #3
Randal Stephens	District #4
Susan Guinnip	District #5
Todd Kuhn	District #6
Mike Parsons	District #7

Chairman Goble started the meeting by explaining that the Board has been talking about the Ambulance Service for a long time with no resolution. This meeting is for gathering of information and no decision will be made at this meeting. Two studies were completed and the last one that did a study stated that ideally both EMS's could come together as one unit with and East side and a West Side but not able to do this at this time. The plan is to keep West Union under the County and when it is not able to be manned, Marshall Ambulance has and will continue help to fill the need.

Public Comments

Jason Wimbley is the current coordinator for the Clark County Ambulance Service. He explained that he is struggling with staffing due to the fact that a paramedic can work for another service and make considerably more income. Currently, Clark County Ambulance staff are paid by the run and \$2.00 per hour while on call. This means that most are working another job and picking up hours with Clark County on their days off. The EMTs and Paramedics with their educational requirements are now a profession and not on a volunteer basis as before.

Daniel Alzate with Jasper County Ambulance Service stated that Jasper County organized a full time ambulance service three and a half years ago. They were also having issues with retention and recruitment. Since doing the full time service, turn-over has not been as much of an issue.

Chairman Goble stated that per the last study that was completed, he advised having First Responders in each community and Martinsville Fire Department is already on with that. West Union currently has two. He says that the main reason is that they get there first and it calms people down. They also can take vitals and have the patient prepared to be loaded into the ambulance when it arrives. The person also studied the County's run numbers for the last three years and stated that as long as the runs are consistent, the County should sustain itself. Also should be able to make money if transfers stay where they have been. That is where the money is made. Currently, with coverage being hard to maintain for Clark County, they have not been able to do the transfers. Ambulance Committee members Rex Goble and Mike Brandenburg met with the Marshall Fire Protection District about the what it would look like to split the County for ambulance service if West Union should close. Plan is to stay in West Union if possible due to the length of time before an ambulance could get there.

Mike Murphy with the Marshall Fire Protection District stated that they have thought about the East side/West side split but the problem with this, is that they are having troubles covering for a second crew and then leaves their district unprotected. Board member Todd Kuhn asked Murphy if Marshall picked up the taxing body of West Union, if that would be enough to cover the extra costs and Murphy did not think that it would be enough to cover more staff. John Hasten with the Marshall Fire Protection District stated that the County needs to focus first on Full Time or not Full Time and then see how the two districts can work together.

Alzate stated that if the County decides to go Full Time, they need to consider how to structure vacation and sick time. Jasper County is currently not unionized. The tax levy for Jasper County is \$350,000. They also have 12 full time employees (9 Paramedics and 3 Basic) plus 14 part-time employees.

Board member Bolin proposed to the Board to have the State's Attorney hire a labor attorney, possible Chris Walters to discuss the potential benefits and pitfalls of the County taking on the Ambulance Service full time.

It was discussed about trying full time ambulance service for a couple of years and if it doesn't work, then could contract with a provider after that. Comments from the EMT's and Paramedics were that they would not quit their current job to come work for Clark County if the intent was to "test it out".

There was much discussion and input from everyone at the meeting. More discussion and information gathering will be coming in the next few months so that an informed decision can be made in the near future.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Todd Kuhn to approve One Day and Mileage Claims. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Susan Guinnip and second by Jim Bolin that the meeting be adjourned until February 19, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Wimbley - Clark County Ambulance; Ronnie Poorman – Clark County Ambulance; Christopher Davidson – Martinsville Fire; Shirley Sherwood – SBL, EMS; Sharon Blankenbeker – Clark County Ambulance; Brian Duvall – Clark County Ambulance; Spencer Wallace – Clark County Ambulance; Andrew Hargrave – United Life Care; Daniel Alzate – Jasper County Ambulance Service; John McNurlan – Clark County Ambulance; Mike Murphy – Marshall Fire Protection District; John Hasten – Marshall Fire Protection District; Karl Ellshoff – Marshall Fire Protection District; Rebecca Herrera – Clark County Ambulance; Meghan Ghasht – Clark County Ambulance; George Macey – Marshall Fire Protection District; Mike Bridges – Marshall Fire Protection District; Darcie Austin – Clark County Ambulance; Gary Strohm – Strohm Newspapers; Verna Reynolds – Clark County Ambulance; Jordan Disch – Clark County Ambulance