

Tama County EMS Association

March 12, 2022

Old Business

Jeremy Cremeans, Director of Tama County Communications gave a brief update on the radio project. This was a 3-4 year project costing the taxpayers approximately 6.5 million dollars. There were 4 new tower sites constructed and one that was retrofitted. Those sites are near Garwin, Traer, Vining, and South of Tama, with the engineer tower being retrofitted. There are paging bases at each of the tower locations with additional bases in Montour, Chelsea, and eventually in Dysart. Jeremy went over the paging protocol that was approved by the 911 Service Board which is one page being sent out and allowing for 7 minutes to acknowledge the page before a mutual aid service is paged. It was highly encouraged that pages be acknowledged as soon as possible. The new portables work very well and should be utilized. The new system is still a work in progress as we all get accustomed to how it operates and the new paging procedures. If there are any suggestions on how to make it better for the county, you are encouraged to either talk to your service board representative or come to the meetings which are on the second Tuesday of each month, however, they are typically on a quarterly basis. The remainder of the portables were delivered on Thursday afternoon. Serial numbers will be sent out as soon as Jeremy gets them. Mobiles are mostly installed with Clutier and Vining left to be installed. Once all the installs are completed and the portables have been put into service, we will discontinue the use of the VHF system. Start collecting all the old portable radios to be turned into RACOM. Someone will be around to pick those up. I-search, which is the program that will allow agencies to send out their own pages, is still being worked on. RACOM had some turnover in the IT department and they are catching up on items. Jeremy is getting ready to send out the annual PDF of who is receiving text pages on their phones. Please check that list and let him know if there needs to be changes.

New Business

Jules gave an update on EMS as an essential service. We are going to keep pushing ahead as this will be a struggle. We have had a few meetings with the BOS and services that have participated. We are going to need everyone on board with this and increased participation in these meetings. We will continue to educate the Board of Supervisors on the needs of EMS in the county. Jules shared the notes that were presented during the last meeting with the supervisors. We will continue with the next steps while having a service director meeting to gather more information. The supervisors will need to have three public hearings before EMS can be declared as an essential service and brought up for public vote. Prior to the vote, we will have to work hard at educating and informing the public of what this money will be spent on. It was also mentioned that we will need participation from Tama County Emergency Management.

The supervisors will need to set up an advisory council to direct where essential services go. We may need to drive the supervisors on this. We can come up with recommendations of who is on this council and supervisors will appoint.

Tama County EMS Association meeting was adjourned at 12:38 with a motion from Toledo, second by Tama.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeremy Cremeans, Secretary