

The Board of Directors of the Marion County Ambulance District met on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at the Marion County Ambulance District Administrative Office. Board members attending were Chairman Dorothea Lake, Vice Chairman Branson Wells, Brian Fowler, Marie Frankenbach, and Larry Coleman via phone. Also attending were EMS Chief John Nemes, Finance Director Claudette Moss, Assistant Finance Director Kari Garrett, and AED Program Director Patty Cheffey.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Dorothea Lake.

First on the agenda was the public hearing to set the tax rate for 2025. Chief Nemes recommended to the Board that the operational portion of the proposed tax rate be reduced to zero as done in previous years. After public hearing and no further comment, a motion was made by Branson Wells to roll the tax rate back to zero. The motion was seconded by Brian Fowler and approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

Next, Chief Nemes said the pension tax rate was capped at .0478 cents per \$100.00 by the state and he recommended the Board approve the tax as presented for 2025. A motion to approve the pension tax rate was made by Marie Frankenbach, seconded by Larry Coleman, and approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

There was some discussion on the Pension Plan and how it is distributed. Chief Nemes advised the Board that there is a separate pension board that manages the pension plan of the district.

The minutes of the last meeting held on July 18, 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made by Larry Coleman to approve the minutes, followed by a second by Branson Wells. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

The treasurer's report, accounts receivable reconciliation, profit and loss, and financial reports for July 2024 were reviewed.

Chief Nemes presented the Board with the Chief's report. MCAD answered 524 calls for emergency service in June. Base 1 (Hannibal) – 2711 handled 122 calls, 2721 handled 139 calls, Base 2 (Hannibal) handled 164 calls, Base 3 (Palmyra) handled 75 calls, and there were 24 off-duty transfers.

HPD Chief Jacob Nacke, Branson, and I went to the MSHP Fleet HQ to look at a mobile command unit that is being recommissioned. The unit will be ultimately reassigned to a LE agency that meets the criteria put out by the state and they are currently taking applications for it. MCAD and NECOMM have discussed a regional command center that would meet all the needs of local and regional agencies for some time and wanted to see if that unit would be sufficient. After meeting with Chief Nacke, we discussed options for that to happen should HPD be able to acquire the unit.

CMO Clemens, Deputy Chief Miller, and Division Chief Murfin attended the Saints Avenue CIT Dinner in July. MCAD received the Frontline Organization of the Year for their work with CIT and they accepted it on behalf of the District.

All the documentation for the ARPA grants has been entered into the grant portal and was accepted, so the District should be seeing a reimbursement check in the next few weeks. After that, the process of closing the grant out can begin.

Admin staff and the Assistant Chiefs met with Randy Epley and Walter Ray from HRH. Topics of discussion were transfers, paperwork issues, and training. In addition, an offer to provide a training session on EMS rules and procedures for their staff was extended, and in turn interest was

expressed in having their doctors or staff provide education in areas such as cardiology for our crews. This has been done in the past and it is beneficial to everyone involved.

Zoll representatives came to Base 1 on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> to provide training on the new Autopulse NXT units. Everyone has been trained and the NXT's have been placed in service. We will continue to provide some local training to area fire departments on the use of them. The final grant paperwork has also been approved so the District should be receiving reimbursement any day.

Under Old Business, Chief Nemes gave an update on the Tourism Center. He has spoken with Kevin James from MODOT and advised that the property cannot be sold outright without legislative approval. Instead it could be done as a lease purchase, which means that a set yearly amount would be paid under a lease until the legislature makes the approval, at which time the balance due could be paid in full. Chief Nemes will reach out to Kevin James to request that he comes to speak with the Board in person and answer any questions.

Under New Business is the Audit. Chief Nemes advised the Board that the new audit company is very thorough, which is welcomed. A recommendation that the Auditors had was to have the Pension included on the budget. The current budget will be amended to include this line item and will be added to future budgets. A motion was made by Branson Wells to move forward with the auditor's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Brian Fowler and was approved on a roll call vote. The auditors have also informed Chief Nemes that the number of hours spent preparing the audit was much more than anticipated, therefore they may be billing us for more than the contracted amount of \$15,000.00.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Marion County Ambulance District Administration Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Branson Wells, seconded by Larry Coleman, and approved on a roll call vote.