

## **MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON JULY 11, 2022**

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Pat Cramer at 6:30 p.m. Committee members in attendance included Pat Cramer, Andrew Asbury, Janet Fleming, Tom Rodgers, Katherine Phillips, Gary Stansbery, and Delbert Kreps. Absent was Stephen Finney. Visitors included Mike Wright, Alex Ussery, Jack Curfman, Rachel Mast, Doris Walton, Doug Diprima, several members of the community regarding the Warsaw dog issue, and Stephanie Swisegood was in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

Rochella Burkhart spoke about her 8-year-old son who got attacked by a dog as he was riding his bike in August 2021. This is half a block from the school and it is also next to the library. There have been 14 calls on this specific dog to the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and animal control. It has killed 10 chickens, attacked another dog which was severely hurt, and attacked her son, and it still runs at large. She would like the county board to allow animal control to take care of this dog. Ms. Mast stated that she needs to investigate the situation so she can figure out what is going on and what preventative measures have been done. She is going to talk to county officials and see what they have done. Several other members of the community spoke regarding similar dog situations that have taken place in Warsaw and Hamilton. They are concerned how the dog issues are being handled by animal control. He has not responded in a timely manner. Several members involved in the dog issue left at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Curfman gave his ESDA report. They received \$8629.21 from IEMA for 4 quarters of Emergency Management Performance Grant. He has received notice of a mitigation grant award of \$26,776.77. The brush pile in Niota is cleaned up. The No Dumping sign has been received and installed. He has 9 hours and 270 miles.

Doris Walton stated that she has received a bill from the ambulance for \$125 for a lift assist. She refuses to pay this bill. She did not want the ambulance called for assistance in lifting her husband. Officer Carrie arrived at the house and informed Ms. Walton that they were not allowed to lift anybody. Officer Carrie called the ambulance. The EMS arrived and got her husband up. EMS was writing out the paperwork and she informed them that she was not going to pay for it because she did not call them. She was told she would need to sign a refusal or payment would not be received from insurance. Mr. Diprima stated he was there that day and remembers that Officer Carrie was the one who stated she called the ambulance. On their report there is a place which asks if the patient, a relative or a bystander made the call, and he remembers marking that a bystander had made the call. He sends this to Adam County and then he does not see it after that. Ms. Mast stated that she would need to talk to a number of individuals to see what is going on. She told Ms. Walton that she could contest the bill. Ms. Fleming and Ms. Walton left at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Ussery who checks the mail at the ambulance garage? He stated that Adams County picks up the mail 1 day a week. Mr. Curfman left at 7:47 p.m. The last several weeks have been very taxing for Adams County EMS as there was a rally going on that they needed to help with. There have been 54 runs in 30 days. The majority went to Memorial Hospital. Calls have been up. He provided the board with a map to help with analytics, where most of the calls are, and the response time. They are still trying to fill staffing positions. In the contract between Adams County and Hancock County it states that they cannot make any changes to policy. They are asking for a change to take an action to state that per diem staff needs to pull at least 12 hours a month. There are 14 per diem employees. Ms. Mast stated she needed to look at the contract and see what can be done. Mr. Cramer told Mr. Ussery to have a policy written up and bring it to full board.

Mr. Ussery stated Adams County EMS has come up with a draft ordinance to not allow any other ambulance other than the current standing ones in Hancock County. This way no fly-by-night ambulance service can pop up in Hancock County. The goal of this is to not lose anymore runs. Soon they will be under contract to do transfers from Memorial Hospital within a 60-mile radius. They need all the revenue they can get. Mr. Diprima states the ambulance has lost a lot of money. Mr. Asbury asked about the per diems. Mr. Ussery stated that most employees are employed elsewhere and are not interested in full time work. Mr. Diprima stated he is hoping to get some relief from the hospital. Mr. Cramer asked if a nurse could do the transfers. Mr. Diprima stated it needs to be a prehospital certified registered nurse. There has been a couple of basics apply at the EMS but has not heard anything.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to pay the LUCAS Devices out of the ARPA funds. Mr. Stansbery seconded the motion. All members present voted "aye". This will be passed on to full board.

Mr. Cramer spoke about the Farmhouse Meats proposal. He is under the impression that EMS would rather not get rid of the land as they would not be able to land a helicopter there. Mr. Diprima stated that we would never be able to expand if we allowed the solar panels to be installed. Ms. Mast reminded the committee that we just paid \$12,500 for an organizational analysis and we should wait on the results of that. Mr. Ussery stated as the states attorney has said we have commissioned Mr. Simon to complete the study, asked him to manage things, look out for the best interest of the county, and suggests having him in these conversations. This could have a huge financial impact, either positively or negatively. Ms. Mast stated there is a lot of evidence in the building next to the sheriff's department so the sheriff would also need to be pulled in to these conversations. She would default us to wait on the organizational analysis. Ms. Jackson, Mr. Buckert, Mr. Diprima, and Mr. Ussery left at 8:25 p.m.