

January 12, 2010

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and Starke County Board of Commissioners and meet in special session at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room, Starke Memorial Hospital, Knox, Indiana, with four members present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

**Joint Meeting of the Starke County Commissioners and Starke
County Council
Re: EMS Services**

Present – Dan Bridegroom, Kathy Norem, Mark Smith, Bill Dulin, Judy Benninghoff, Chuck Estok

Also Present – Grover Goetz, Austin Townsend, Teresa Townsend, James Minker, Lisa Kaiser, Jerrod Boyd, Dave Combs, Kenny Pfost, Nicholas Ferguson, Randy Abbey, Jerry Russell, Charlie Collins, Kris Rannels, Dave Emigh, Dave Pearman, John Reed, Ted Hayes, Linda Satkoski, Dr. Hassen

The meeting was called to order, in the Starke Memorial Hospital conference room, at 6:30 PM by Kathy Norem. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the need, as well as the level of interest from those in attendance, to make changes to the current EMS model to improve the service to the people of Starke County. It was noted that the current system of basic EMT service has been the model for the last forty years.

The neighboring Counties have reported that their services evolved over time to the delivery models they currently utilize. Everyone in attendance acknowledged that any improvements would likely be incremental. It was the overall feeling that a system with first responders (non-transport) through the fire departments, backed up by the current EMT service and an added single paramedic chase when warranted, would be a good first step toward improving patient outcomes.

Some of the immediate issues that would need to be addressed with this system include:

- The fire departments are in varying stages of EMS certification. Some departments have quite a few of the staff certified as first responders, as well as some certified basic EMT's, and several are currently working toward obtaining certifications.
- Lisa Keiser works with Larry Brock from Pulaski County to provide the training for the fire departments as her spare time and the departments schedule allows. She is not currently being reimbursed for her work.
- Koontz Lake has at least 5 fire fighters that are certified as basic EMT's and they are registered/certified by the State as a BLS non-transport service.
- Standardized protocols would need to be drafted and agreed upon by all parties.
- There would need to be a common Medical Director for both the fire departments and EMS that was agreed upon by all entities.
- Overall cost of training and equipment needs to be explored.

It was reported that LaPorte Counties model is the closest to the one discussed here this evening. Kathy Norem will make an appointment to visit with the head of their department to obtain additional information.

The firemen in attendance this evening will take the information from this meeting back to their respective departments for discussion at their monthly meeting. After each department has conducted their monthly meeting and discussed the information, each department will appoint two delegates (the Department Chief or his designee and one other member) to represent the interests and view point of their membership and a subsequent meeting for additional discussions. The meeting will be hosted by the Knox Fire Department, as it is the centrally located the third week of February. Dave Pearman, County Wide Fire Chief, will work with each department to choose the best date and time and it will be announced.

The monthly County Fire meeting will be held next week (1/19/10) at the North Judson Fire Department. Several Commissioner/Council members would like to attend.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Kathy Norem at 7:30 PM.

Mark Smith, President

Chuck Estok, Vice President

Bill Dulin

ABSENT

Jennifer Davis

Judy Benninghoff

ABSENT

Bruce Fingerhut

ABSENT

Dan Awald

Michaelene J Houston, Auditor