

LYON COUNTY AUDITORS OFFICE
May 2, 2013

ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA

The Board of Supervisors along with members from the Emergency management commission, E911 board and members of Lyon County Ambulance gathered to discuss the idea of joining all three entities into one director position. In attendance were: Board of Supervisors: Randy Bosch, Kirk Peters, Steve Michael, Mark Behrens and Merle Koedam; Emergency Management Commission (city mayors or their designee): Tim Mantel-Doon, Mark Nagel-Alvord, Dan Gerber-Lester, Daniel P. Moen-Inwood, Jason Chase-Rock Rapids and Dean Snyders-Larchwood; E911 Board(fire chief or their designee): Blake Van Bommel-Doon, Ed Reck-Rock Rapids, Joe Schilling-Little Rock, Glen Meyer-Alvord, Morris Metzger-Lester, Bill Sprock- George and Arden Kopischke-Little Rock; Lyon County Ambulance: Dick Heidloff, Sara Schubert, Amy Borman, Dale Slack, Marlene Bowers and Jen Smit; County Attorney Shayne Meyer, Sheriff Stewart Vander Stoep and Lyon County Emergency Management Director Wayne Jepsen.

Steve Michael opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Michael stated he hoped that the meeting would generate discussion regarding his presentation of creating a new position combining emergency management and E911 with the incorporation of an ambulance director. Michael explained how it isn't uncommon for counties to combine emergency management and E911 as there are many that have. It is different however when looking at combining those two and also incorporating ambulance director duties into that position.

Michael's explained how emergency management and E911 are subject to laws and commissions as set forth in the Code of Iowa whereas the ambulance service doesn't have such explicit rules. Michael's commented on how each of the services currently does a great job but would like to be able to take each of these to a higher level. The process started after the Board of supervisors had been approached about the possibility of creating an ambulance director position. With Jepsen retiring the end of this June and needing to hire for that position and the idea of creating an ambulance director Michael started researching the possibility of combining all three.

Open discussion covered: staffing and recruiting problems for the ambulance, the possibility of talking with Rock Rapids businesses to see if any of their employees are interested and if they are willing to let them leave, what the costs could be if the county had to contract with an outside provider for ambulance services, questions and concerns from members and Attorney Mayer in combining all three entities and the process of setting up an executive board to govern the new position. Other issues that were discussed revolved around budgeting for the new position, current payment of ambulance squad members and the costs involved with making this a full time position.

It was discussed and all in attendance agreed that each entity should bring this information back to their whole board to get a majority vote on what they feel is the best for their board.

