

CITY OF IOLA
03-04-2013

A special called meeting of the City Council of the City of Iola was held on March 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., at the Creitz Recital Hall in the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a city / county joint governing body discussion.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Shirley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shirley, Council Members Wicoff, Stewart, Ford, Becker, and French were present. Also present was Administrator Slaugh, and City Clerk Hutton. County Commissioners Works, Williams and Talkington were present as well as members of the press and visitors in the audience. Absent were Council Members French, Toland and Kilby.

Fred Heismeyer Moderator:

At the previous meeting of the two bodies it was identified that the preferred topic for this meeting would be the EMS Ambulance Resolution.

Council Member Becker stated that in his previous work environment it was best to identify why something is broken before you try to fix what is broken.

Dr. Heismeyer asked the group if they could have an ideal service what would it look like:

Previously it was two ambulances in Iola, one in Moran and one in Humboldt.

Designation of who does long distance transfers.

Type I designation backed up by first responders throughout the county that could perform basic life saving measures.

Continuous training for all individuals.

More ambulances located in rural areas.

Paramedic Stations throughout county.

Strong Leadership

Answerable to one entity for quality assurance.

Accountability

Are two ambulances needed in Iola (number of runs)

Best care we can give to the citizens of Iola.

Realities:

Difficult to have a paramedic or first responder within five miles of everyone.

Funding limitations

Current Staffing 19 city and 31 county

Public expectations – are they concerned with time limits to their areas or saving tax money.

Who is in charge? An entity, board or individual.

The two services now are costing taxpayers.

Don't create a program that is more than what we need.

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The normal for most counties is two ambulances, citizens have gotten used to the three ambulances throughout the county.

Adequate staffing to cover.

Type I service

6:45 p.m. Council Member Kilby arrived at the meeting.

Which of the items are we not in agreement on:

Who is in charge of operations?

Accountability

Commissioner Williams stated that in the past the county was in charge of the service and Iola Fire Chief Donald Leapheart was the director of all of the county service, however he was not really in charge of the entities outside of the city, same thing happened after he left the position and the county hired a new director.

The governing bodies involved at the time did not make rational and sane decisions.

Make for a toxic culture.

Commissioner Works noted that an outside entity to run the service would be best.

Council Member Stewart handed out a proposal that he came up with too provide countywide services.

Commissioner Works noted that a Public Safety Board that would hire a director would be a good way to go.

The group commented that a smaller group made up of members from this group to come up with some ideas to bring back to this group would be beneficial. This group would be open to the public and all decisions would only be made by the larger group.

Commissioner Williams made a proposal to have all three county commissioners and two city council members on the smaller group.

Mayor Shirley stated that he would appoint two councilmembers at the next meeting of the council on March 11th.

Everyone was in agreement to set a deadline of April 1st for the small group.

ADJOURNMENT

7:28 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Kilby and was seconded by Council Member Ford to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. As the vote was unanimous, the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Approved by the City Council of the City of Iola, Kansas this 11th day of March, 2013

Mayor, William A. Shirley

City Clerk, Roxanne Hutton