



## *Marion County EMS Association*

### **Request to The Marion County Board of Supervisors**

Marion County Board of Supervisors  
Kisha Jahner  
Steve McCombs  
Mark Raymie

The Marion County EMS Association respectfully requests board action removing Supervisor Raymie from the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and replacing him with either Supervisor McCombs or Supervisor Jahner.

We include a background summary.

Just before March of 2023, The Board of Supervisors created an EMS Advisory Committee, which consisted of representatives from the cities of Pella, Knoxville, Pleasantville, Melcher-Dallas, and Bussey; five townships, five fire departments, Pella EMS, Marion County Emergency Management, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Marion County Public Health, The Knoxville Area Community Hospital, and The Pella Regional Health Center. County Supervisor Mark Raymie is also a member. While some members have voting status, and some do not, all the member positions were enumerated as members of the committee at the Board of Supervisors meeting of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The EMS Advisory Committee began meeting in April of 2023. At the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the committee, Raymie called the question on a motion to exclude non-voting members. The non-voting members are primarily the individuals that actually respond to medical emergencies.

In November 2023, while the committee was actively working on proposals, Raymie requested that meetings be placed on hold until approximately March of 2024, as he would be busy with county budget matters.

During this period of holding, and to the surprise of many, on February 8<sup>th</sup> of 2024, Public Health Director Kim Dorn, who is not a member of The EMS Advisory Committee, issued a press release, declaring that The EMS Advisory Committee's process was "at a standstill," and that "The group was unable to arrive at a consensus proposal..."

No such report was made by the committee to the board.

Dorn's press release further stated that a new group was meeting to focus on the issue. This group included no representatives from any cities except Pella, it included no townships, and it included no first responders.

The press release also indicates that "members" (plural) of the Board of Supervisors are involved in the new group. It is our understanding that only Supervisor Raymie has been involved. It is believed that Supervisor McCombs and Supervisor Jahner were not even notified of the new group until they read when the press release was issued.

The press release was posted on The Marion County Public Health Facebook page. After several citizens of Marion County posted objections, the online post was "locked out" by Marion County Public Health, preventing further public discussion. (*Note: Comments were allowed again after several days of being blocked.*)

The EMS Advisory Committee was created and charged by the Board of Supervisors to perform a function. That committee has made progress, and it can still pursue its work. In contrast, the board took no action to create the second group that was described in the press release.

There is no disagreement that there are many aspects to consider when looking at changes to the emergency medical system. EMS service directors in Marion County are receptive to an open, unbiased review of EMS in Marion County, but such a review must include all pertinent positions. Regrettably, from our view, Supervisor Raymie has repeatedly attempted to silence or ignore the people who actually respond to emergency situations.

In closing, we offer what was stated in the minutes of the October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of The EMS Advisory Committee, *"Raymie advised that our presentation has to be with one concurring voice, because if there are hints of discord the Supervisors would probably not be inclined to move forward."*

We agree with that sentiment.

The Marion County EMS Association believes that Supervisor Raymie's continued involvement in The EMS Advisory Committee is counterproductive to the purpose of that committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Marion County EMS Association