



SOUTHERN WINNEBAGO EMS AMBULANCE BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING

DRAFT – Minutes will be finalized/approved at the next Ambulance Board meeting.

DATE:
October 15, 2025

TIME:
3:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Omro Town Hall, 4205 Rivermoor Rd.

Attendance

Chairman Frank Frassetto, Vice Chair Len Schmick, Secretary Brian Noe, Commissioners Pat Kafer, David Wiese, Marty Johnson, Eric Lang and Mike Bouras were present. Commissioner Glen Barthels and Assistant Secretary Dana Woods were excused.

Regular Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Frassetto called the Ambulance Board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.

Correspondence/Comments from Ambulance Board

Chairman Frassetto gave an update on the county-wide service feasibility study. They are hoping for a report to summarize the study around the time of next February.

Public Comment

- Mike Krueger introduced Heather Krueger (no relation to Mike) who will be Lifestar's acting Supervisor for SWEMS ambulance operations until someone more local could take over.
- Krueger also indicated that the county sheriff's office has emailed us today asking for the district to reconsider the chosen transition date of December 29 even though that date was previously agreeable to the sheriff's department. This will need to be addressed with them and OFD was unwilling to extend service into the new year. The alternative proposed by the sheriff's department was December. That seems too early given all the work to be done.
Commissioner Wiese suggested a meeting be arranged with the county to discuss.
City of Omro Lieutenant Corey Anderson shared some perspective on what it takes to make the transition for dispatch. He also spoke to Captain Vendola yesterday who indicated they were looking for something in writing from SWEMS.
Commission members directed Secretary Noe to draft a letter from the ambulance board to the sheriff's department indicating that unless someone can convince the City of Oshkosh to extend service to January 5, we are requesting the transition stick to December 29.
- Corey Anderson commented about the group acquiring a LUCAS device and said some discussions had taken place among local first responders about the first responders contributing to the cost of it.
- City of Omro Administrator Brandon Hennes commented that he had discussions with City of Oshkosh City Manager Rebecca Grill about mutual aid agreements and indicated she had concerns about offering SWEMS mutual aid without some sort of compensations for it. He spoke to City of Ripon City Manager who shared the same concerns as well. He also indicated he had also spoken with North Fond du Lac and it seems all feel that having City of Oshkosh on board. Secretary Noe, Vice Chair Schmick and

Chairman Frassetto each expressed concerns about why anyone other than Lifestar was having these conversations with neighboring communities when they might end up being counterproductive to Lifestar's efforts.

Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2025

MOTION by Commissioner Bouras, second by Commissioner Kafer to approve the September 24, 2025 minutes as presented.

Motion approved on an 8-0 voice vote.

County Executive Gordon Hintz (invited)

Not present at this time.

Update on Mutual Aid Agreements

Mike Krueger from Lifestar EMS provided an update on the status of mutual aid agreements.

- Has reached out to all neighboring agencies with the exception of Berlin EMS which he intends to do, but had been a lower priority thus far.
- City of Oshkosh was contacted and was agreeable to providing mutual aid (MA) as long as we had 2 ambulances. Getting them to respond and review and provide any feedback on sample agreements has taken about 6 weeks at this point. Still awaiting their final agreement but if not changed significantly, Lifestar finds the latest draft agreeable, and it does not indicate any compensation.
- North Fond du Lac is willing to provide MA but preferred to be a secondary call with City of Oshkosh responding first.
- Reached out to City of Ripon by email and phone with some brief responses saying they would get back to him shortly. Ultimately, they came back and said they are not willing to engage in MA and need to prioritize their own residents.
- Waushara County MA agreement is finalized already

Krueger indicated that getting these agreements is not typically this complicated, and while he does not want to come off as too aggressive, it's been frustrating that departments he's willing to provide mutual aid to (and already does in some cases) are either not willing to or spending a lot of time considering it.

Commissioner Lang suggested that if neighboring cities reach out to Hennes again about it, he should refer them to Mike Krueger. Chairman Frassetto reiterated that communication on this topic should come from the ambulance board and/or Mike Krueger, but nobody else.

Update on Lease Agreements for Ambulance Stations

- Negotiating a lease with the Storage Bar at 41 and Plainview.
- After meeting he is heading to the property on Industrial Drive to talk to that owner again. Also was contacted by Chad Pugh who just bought the old fire station building on Main Street in Omro and looked at that today too. Will need to decide between the two.

Discuss Any Potential Funding Opportunities

Nothing new at this time.

Consider Creating a Capital Fund Based on a Per Capita Fee

Commissioner Johnson suggested we think about starting to save something, either at the municipal level or in an account held by SWEMS. Something small like one or two dollars per capita so it doesn't have too much impact on budgets.

Chairman Frassetto indicated per capita might not always be the way to fund things, but likes the idea. Would like to see us have a more robust conversation about it after the first of the year.

Vice Chair Schmick commented that he felt per capita was the most fair and several others voiced support for using that for now and that \$1 was agreeable.

Commissioner Kafer offered to make a motion to that effect; several commented that a motion wasn't necessary. However, since we are all preparing budgets this time of year the consensus was to have all municipal members budget for a \$1/capita to contribute to a capital fund that could be finalized and set up after the first of the year.

Review Next Steps

- Chairman Frassetto and Mike Krueger will set up meeting with some neighbors mentioned regarding the MA agreements.
- Secretary Noe will draft the letter to Winnebago County Sheriff's Department regarding the transition date.

Select Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 30 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Kafer, second by Commissioner Lang to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.
Motion approved by an 8-0 voice vote.

Submitted by Brian Noe, Board Secretary