Tama County Essential Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2026

The Tama County Essential Service Advisory Council held a meeting on July 16th, 2026, at the Tama County Public Health and via Zoom, which Chair Scadden called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Member's present: Billie Van Egmond (Dysart EMS), Alicia Lidtke (Elberon EMS), Sharon Knoop, (Clutier First Responders), Mike Buchanan (Montour First Responders), Luther Heller (Montour Alt.), Ryan Goodenbour (EMA Coordinator), Greg Johnson (Treasurer), Lori Johnson (Public Health), Ronda Edwards (Clutier, Alt), David Turner (Tama County BOS), and Donnie Wietzell (Tama EMS)

Members present via Zoom: Dwight Gliem (Grundy Center EMS), Jacob Reineke (911 Director), Jesse Brown (Toledo EMS), Randie Brodigan (Dysart, Alt.), Kathy Vavroch (Gladbrook-Lincoln EMS, Alt.), Shaun Kennedy (Traer EMS), Jacob Patterson (Gilman).

Members not present: Todd Baines (Elberon, Alt.), Kern Kemp (Gladbrook-Lincoln EMS), Debbra Stamp (Garwin, Alt.), Delrae Hennessy (Toledo, Alt.), Sherry Parks (Garwin EMS), Alea Dvorak (Traer, Alt.).

Public present: Kelly Purk

Approval of Agenda

Knoop made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Reineke. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Weitzell made the motion to approve the minutes from May 21, 2026. Second by Buchanan. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Opened 6:03 p.m.

No public comments

Closed 6:04 p.m.

Distribution total FY 26

Scadden stated $270,117.37 was spent according to the Tama County Auditor's Office. Fiscal Year 2026 is closed. Any claims from July 1 and on will go toward fiscal year 2027. Claims should be submitted within each quarter of the fiscal year. The computer used to track the funds was bought with the reserve funds.

The Auditor's report for Fiscal Year 26 was summarized: Fiscal Year 26 covered the half-year period; most spending was on salaries and stipends; administrative operations and medical supplies were other expenses; and certain items were placed under "miscellaneous," which requires follow-up with Auditor Rohrs. Members reviewed which agencies submitted claims and which did not, noting Toledo's consistent reimbursements, Reinbeck holding funds for a vehicle purchase, and that seven services did not submit anything. Scaddan explained the expected carryover in early years to meet ten-year planning assumptions.

EMS Trust Fund FY 27

Scadden presented FY27 projections, including the 10% reserve set-aside; described how carryovers combine with current-year allocations to form each agency's available funds; cautioned that spending all funds would leave agencies without money until the next tax collection; and demonstrated allocation examples for agencies like Clutier and Toledo.

Current EMS Trust Fund Total

As of July 1, 2026, there is $925,371.00.

<u>New Business</u>

Update to Distribution Policy

Scadden stated that claims cannot be submitted in six-month increments; they must be submitted monthly. The Advisory Board needs to know if the funds are being saved for a larger purchase. Services can submit claims in the last month of each quarter if they haven’t submitted the previous months' claims.

G. Johnson made a motion to change the policy to require that claims be submitted before the 10th day of the month, rather than the 7th. Seconded by Van Egmond. Motion carried with Kennedy opposed.

First Responder vs Transport

The committee discussed whether first responders who do not transport should have their runs counted when a transporting service also responds, and 911 Director Reineke described current CAD-based tracking as relying on notes and disposition codes that require manual review to reconcile counts. Reineke noted that automations, including a newly approved AI integration with CAD and phone systems, should soon reduce manual effort and improve data accuracy.

Survey Results

Scaddan summarized survey results from 21 respondents, noting the responses largely confirmed known issues rather than revealing new insights. The demographic breakdown showed many respondents were administrators and volunteers, and openended responses emphasized recruitment, retention, burnout, daytime staffing, and leadership succession as primary workforce challenges.

SWOT Assessment

The SWOT assessment highlighted strengths such as strong collaboration, distributed EMS coverage, a dedicated workforce, and generally short transport times, and weaknesses including declining volunteer numbers, an aging workforce, fragmented service models, and financial sustainability concerns given the rural geography and service saturation relative to population.

Final Report

Scadden stated the final report needs to be submitted by September 1st. L. Johnson motioned to approve the report. Seconded by Lidtke. Motion carried unanimously.

Meet with City Councils

Scadden stated she is meeting with the city of Garwin in August to answer some questions regarding the process. She is willing to meet with other city councils. EMS Director, mayor, or city clerk are authorized to submit claims.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 22nd, 2026, at 6 p.m., at Traer Fire Station.

G. Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lidtke at 7:26, pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Ryan Goodenbour

Essential Service Advisory Council Secretary

Essential Service Trust Fund FY 26 and 27

Agency	Beginning Funding	Expenditures	Fund Balance
Belle Plaine	$40,901.86	$0.00	$40,901.86
Clutier	$23,443.86	$0.00	$23,443.86
Dysart	$62,351.64	$34,566.21	$27,785.43
Elberon	$40,232.67	$0.00	$40,232.67
Garwin	$49,794.84	$9,484.24	$40,310.60
Gladbrook	$84,353.42	$33,746.71	$50,606.71
Montour	$22,011.92	$0.00	$22,011.92
Reinbeck	$30,150.32	$0.00	$30,150.37
Tama	$146,895.34	$55,087.73	$91,812.61
Toledo	$137,550.90	$65,861.25	$71,689.65
Traer	$132,914.14	$66,097.50	$66,816.64
Gilman	$14,460.03	$0.00	$14,460.03
Grundy Center	$9,552.57	$4,615.88	$4,936.69
Laporte City	$2,533.87	$0.00	$2,533.87
Total:	**$797,147.38**	**$269,459.52**	**$527,692.91**