

RESOLUTION NO. 2022.05.23.01

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TO BE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE IN WORTH COUNTY, IOWA AS AUTHORIZED BY IOWA CODE SECTION 422D.1

WHEREAS, the Worth County Board of Supervisors has the authority under Iowa Code 331.301(1) to "...exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges, and property of the county or of its residents, and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of its residents"; and

WHEREAS, Worth County supports EMS to its residents and seeks to provide Emergency Medical Services to all its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, ensuring efficient and effective EMS coverage is essential for maintaining the health and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Worth County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of maintaining and advancing the level of care, capability, and coverage of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Worth County; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2021, Iowa Senate File 615 was signed into law by Governor Reynolds, amending Iowa Code Section 422D.1, giving Iowa Counties the ability to declare EMS an essential service for their respective county, thereby making it possible for counties to propose additional funding sources for EMS to the county's voters at an election.

WHEREAS, Worth County Board of Supervisors, on February 28, 2022, directed that notice of the first meeting to consider this resolution be made and any other actions be taken as necessary to proceed with the process under Iowa Code Section 422D.1 to declare EMS to be an essential county service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Worth County Board of Supervisors, that: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is hereby declared an essential service in and for Worth County, Iowa, and the Worth County Board of Supervisors will exercise the necessary power and functions appropriate to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of Worth County residents and provide for an effective and efficient Worth County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System that allows for quality care for the persons living, working or traveling in Worth County, Iowa. Exercising said necessary power and function includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of a Worth County emergency medical services advisory council and the proposition of a local option income surtax and/or ad valorem property tax to fund EMS to be voted upon by Worth County voters.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that adoption of this resolution will allow 1) For an election to be offered for voter approval of an ad valorem property tax not to exceed seventy-five cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value for EMS and 2) The creation of a county emergency medical services system advisory council to assist in researching / assessing the service needs of the county and guide implementation of the same under Iowa Code Section 422D.1.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if a proposition to fund EMS through either a local option surtax or ad valorem property tax, or some combination thereof, fails to receive a favorable vote by at least sixty percent of those voting on the question, this resolution shall be deemed null and void.

1st Reading Date: May 9

2nd Reading Date: May 16

3rd Reading and Approval Date: May 23

Upon Roll Call, the vote thereon was as follows:

AYES: Loberg, Stone, Smeby

NAYS: N/A

ABSTAIN: N/A

HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Worth County, Iowa, on this 23rd day of May 2022.

Mark Smeby
Mark Smeby
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Jacki A. Backhaus
Attest: Jacki A. Backhaus, County Auditor