

Jordan Valley EMS Authority Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 5:30PM
555 Maple Street, East Jordan, MI 49727

1. **Meeting was called to order** and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mark Penzien at 5:32pm.
2. **Invocation**
3. **Present:** Brian Olszewski, Tim Timmer, Jay Peck, Mark Penzien, Alex Busman (via Zoom) Others Present: Joel Yonkman, Andrea Seese and Heather Jackson (Kim Brooks joined after meeting had started) Absent: Jim Rathbun
4. **Guest:** 5
5. **Agenda Approval:** Olszewski motioned to approve the agenda, supported by Timmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Past Minutes:** Timmer motioned to approve minutes from November 19, 2025, Peck asked for discussion as to the outcome of numbers 11. and 12. It was annotated that both items carried and this was documented on draft minutes for updating. Supported by Olszewski. All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Accountant Report:** Peck motioned to accept November 2025 report, supported by Timmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Public Comment:** Jarris Rubingh (SPELLING), Antrim County Commissioner, thanked crew and board for the work we do, advised against millage increase, suggested splitting Banks Twp between LCEMSA and Torch Lake. Inquired about an Atwood Substation and unionizing. No other public comment at this time.
9. **Directors Report:** Joel Yonkman gave updates on trucks, ESO system and Mechanic progress. New budget in the works, finalizing details for review. Yonkman asked the board if they would like to hold a special meeting focusing on the budget. After board discussion Timmer motioned to hold a special meeting on January 12, 2025 at 5:30p to discuss the budget, Olszewski supported. All in favor, motion carried. Timmer requested an overtime report for review. Call volume has increased. He also mentioned that the Government shutdown is still impacting returns and payments. Public relations events in works, recently Holiday Heros gift drive, chili dinner free to the community and cookies and games for families. Kudos to Hope and the team for putting it together. ESO work has begun, there is a lot of behind the scenes work that has to be accomplished but is hopeful this will be up and running by March. Discussion held regarding the selling of 2011 Yukon and 2018 Van, will determine the asking cost and platform to post for sale on. Busman suggested placing on FaceBook Marketplace, establishing a minimum value from KBB, and returning those funds to the Vehicle Fund. Ensure Fixed Asset Policy is employed. All members agreed to move forward.
10. **Treasurers Report:** Timmer indicates need to find and add funds in the coming weeks. Discussion regarding pay backs. Voiced concerns regarding delayed payments and unpaid bills. Hopeful with the end of shutdown money will begin to trickle in. Timmer inquired if there was a way to "fast track" private pays, Yonkman explained the process

of billing and answered related questions. Peck motioned to accept the report as presented, supported by Penzien. All in favor, motion carried.

11. **Unfinished Business:** By-Laws were tabled, Yonkman will follow up with LCEMSA to obtain a copy for reference/comparison. RFP Auditor-Heather will reference the City's RFPs. During discussion, Penzien voiced he would prefer we have a better cash flow prior to posting RFP. Peck stated there should be past RFPs from the authority that could be referenced, Peck also requested Yonkman complete this task. Budget-was discussed under Directors Report and special meeting set for January 12, 2025.
12. **New Business:** Healthcare-tabled from last meeting. Joel has reached out and requested a portfolio of options from the current provider to compare various plans for employees, and was told they could get to him by the end of this week, the start of next. 2026 Meeting Schedule-was reviewed, discussion with recommendation to change January and February dates, noted, dates will be finalized and published for the public.
13. **Public Comment:** Jarris Rubingh suggested we look at comparable agencies throughout Michigan, it was noted that JVEMSA is a "special case" and it is hard to compare to other agencies. This led to discussion regarding the millage, Olszewski gave examples of SEVs and compared millage rates for surrounding communities. It was identified the SEVs in locations such as TAA and LCEMSA are much higher than in our service area hence the millage funds would go much further. It was suggested by a member of the audience that those numbers be shared within the communities, the board concurred these numbers should be shared within the service area in hopes to educate the voting population. Tom Birgy discussed his concerns regarding the varying truck models and finding a mechanic who is familiar and able to work on most ambulances. Corey Wells stated there have been lots of changes, and does commend anyone who has stepped into these roles. Indicated he had a productive conversation with Joel recently.
14. **Authority Board Member Comments:** Olszewski shared he was approached recently by a taxpayer who was worried that ambulance services would not be available, this taxpayer indicated as well how appreciative they were for the service provided. Timmer stated it is important to speak on values, millage differentials, and conversations need to be held to represent interests. The board values service, feels the equipment fund is sufficient; however, we need to focus on the operational budget and stressed how much we rely on the communities to continue services. Peck shared that when they hired Joel the intent was to have him at a desk doing more administrative duties but realized quickly that was not necessarily feasible. Also thanked and encouraged the staff to keep pushing forward. Penzien shared his feelings on the changes that have occurred and stated he feels we are in a better place than this same time last year. Busman indicated we need to remedy the feeling of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Also the board is doing their best to help.
15. **Joel Yonkman requested a closed session** to discuss an employee concern. The public was released and a closed session occurred at 7:38pm
16. **Closed Session Ended** at 8:25pm
17. **Back into open session:** 8:26pm

18. **Peck made a motion to approve contract settlement with Lucero as presented.**

Supported by Olszewski. Roll Call Vote: In favor: Penzien, Peck, Olszewski. All Against: Timmer. Motion Carried.

19. **Motion to adjourn made by Timmer, supported by Penzien.** All in favor, motion carried. Meeting Adjourned 8:28pm

Presented By: Andrea Seese _____

Board Secretary: Jim Rathbun  _____