

**Jordan Valley EMS Authority Board Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, January 23, 2026 at 5:30pm**  
**555 Maple Street, East Jordan, MI 49727**

1. **Meeting called to order** and Pledge of Allegiance: 5:35pm
2. **Invocation:** Mark Penzien
3. **Roll Call:** Present, Jim Rathbun, Alex Busman, Mark Penzien, Jay Peck, Tim Timmer, Brian Olszewski. **Others Present:** Joel Yonkman, Kim Brooks & Heather Jackson.
4. **Guests** – 5 signed in.
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Peck motioned to approve agenda, supported by Olszewski. All in Favor, Motion Carried.
6. **Public Comment:** One member of the audience inquired about minutes to be posted on the website. It was stated that the December minutes, along with the January Special minutes would be posted once approved at the January 28, 2026 regular Board meeting.
7. **Agenda Item 1 – Mechanic Program:** Yonkman had sent out information requested by the Board from the January 12, Special meeting, to the Board members for review. Yonkman verified that there was no zoning concern, no OSHA concerns, and also sent the numbers to them to show how the Authority would save money on maintenance for the Authority ambulances and how it would bring in revenue from other agencies to help support the program. Yonkman and other Board members have had contact with other agencies to confirm they would use this service. Yonkman also assured the Board of the commitment the mechanic shows to start this program and make it successful. He would bring his experience and all of his own personal tools to use. Lengthy discussion was had about the marketing to get the word out into the area, the concern Yonkman has if we were to wait 6 months to start up as this service that is much needed for the Authority as well as many local agencies. He feels once this program is established, it will support itself. Yonkman explained the Mechanic contract and what that entails. Timmer and Busman have reservations about moving forward with the program at this time, **as it is inconsistent with JVEMSA mission statement**. The question of start up costs and salary/benefit package for the mechanic was also a concern. Yonkman states that the ambulance van that recently had a new motor put in, is in the process of being sold and that sale would help significantly with the startup costs. At this time, Peck made a motion to support bringing on a mechanic to JVEMSA, supported by Rathbun. Roll Call  
Vote: Voting For: Olszewski, Peck, Penzien, Rathbun  
Voting Against: Timmer, Busman  
Motion Carried 4-2

Timmer requested that Yonkman have the attorney review the contract. Busman would like Yonkman to verify that if the program does not succeed, that we will not be obligated to pay a mechanic for the length of the contract. Busman also requested that Yonkman look into the income from program to verify whether or not it would be taxable. Yonkman will also look into possibly leasing equipment that would be needed. The question was asked by Board members as to who will keep track of billing, scheduling and budget for the program. Yonkman stated that himself, Brooks, Jackson and the biller would be dedicated to these tasks.

8. **Agenda Item 2 – Millage:** Discussion was had in regard to a possible request for millage increase on the May ballot. Several Board members agree that the millage has not been where it should be to sustain. Olszewski questioned if Wilson and Eveline, who are contracted with JVEMSA, would be willing to increase. Audience member Sandi Whiteford of Eveline Township stated that they would also request a millage increase on the May ballot to support EMS/Fire. Timmer recommended .75 increase for operations. Other discussion was had in regard to the mechanic program. That if successful, JVEMSA would be able to give back to the townships and City, once current debt is paid off. Timmer made a motion to move forward for Yonkman to get with the attorney to work on the ballot language for a millage increase up to .75 mil, supported by Penzien. All in Favor, Motion Carried. This will need to be completed by February 10, 2026.
9. **Agenda Item 3 – Echo Unit Replacement:** Yonkman stated the 2011 Yukon had been sold for \$7500 and the 2013 Tahoe sale is pending. He believes this vehicle will bring \$7,000-\$8000. He would like to put this vehicle fund money towards a new Tahoe Echo Unit. He supplied a quote to the Board, with payment options. Board requested Yonkman provide the Board with a rate for the lease and amount of down payment there would be at the meeting on January 28, 2026
10. **Agenda Item 4 – Budget:** Yonkman stated he placed this item on the agenda to answer any questions the Board may have on the 2026 budget.
11. **Public Comment:** Most concerns were in regard to the Mechanic Program and making sure the Authority is prepared for what is required to start up a program like this and being compliant. Many gave advice on what would be needed. One showed concern on using the monies to help start the program, from the van ambulance that will be sold. One member of the audience would like to email Yonkman and Board members his questions and concerns. Penzien stated that would be acceptable.
12. **Board Comments:** Timmer would like Union Contract Negotiations on next meeting agenda along with billing.
13. **Meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm**

Presented By: Kim Brooks Kim Brooks

Board Secretary: Jim Rathbun Jim Rathbun