

Potential County EMS District Formation Meeting Held in Upton



A public meeting was held on Monday, August 18 at the Upton Community Center to discuss potentially forming a county-wide EMS district. Shown above are (l-r) Shane Kirsch, Campbell County EMS manager, and Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Nate Todd, Marty Ertman, and Vera Huber.

**By Brittany Trandahl
Gazette Reporter**

On Monday, August 18, the Weston County Commissioners held a public hearing in Upton to discuss the possible creation of a county-wide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) District. About 20 people attended, a stronger turnout than the earlier hearing in Newcastle on August 4, where seven residents were present.

Commission Chairman Nate Todd opened the meeting by noting the informal format. "We're here to answer questions anyone might have," he said. Todd also provided background, explaining that EMS services in Wyoming, and across the state, are struggling with a lack of funding and staff. Unlike fire protection or law enforcement, EMS is not deemed an essential service in Wyoming, meaning it lacks a stable funding model.

A new option for counties was made available in July 2023, when state law was updated to allow the establishment of

EMS-only districts by resolution of the county commissioners. Previously, such services had to be included in broader improvement and service districts. Since the change, only one Wyoming county, Platte County, has established an EMS district, though it has yet to finalize its funding model. Sweetwater County is also considering the option.

Under the law, if an EMS district is formed, the county commissioners must appoint between three and nine residents to serve on its board of directors. Members would serve three-year staggered terms and report quarterly to the commissioners, including statistics on how many patients were covered by private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or another health plan. Todd clarified that neither the board of directors nor the commissioners would have access to personal medical information, only basic

Want to Continue Reading?

Subscribe Today!