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Morrow County Residents,

For the past three and a half years, there has been a dispute about which entity or entities should provide ambulance service in Morrow County. Morrow County Health District has been the sole ambulance service provider in Morrow County since its formation in 1994. This dispute has become extremely contentious over the past year, resulting in litigation against Morrow County and Boardman Fire Rescue District.

Unfortunately, this dispute also has a serious impact on our first responders' ability to provide safe care in the field, particularly in Boardman. Recent incidents reported by first responders from multiple entities have led MCHD to determine that tensions have escalated to the point where it is no longer safe for our staff or patients for us to provide services in the current conditions. For this reason, MCHD intends to request immediate mediation with Morrow County in the hopes of finding a resolution, which will also resolve the legal dispute between MCHD and Morrow County. Ultimately, it is Morrow County that has the statutory obligation to provide for ambulance service.

Our goal for mediation with Morrow County will be to establish a formal agreement between Morrow County and Morrow County Health District to provide ambulance service to all or part of Morrow County.

Without the formal support of Morrow County, it is not possible for MCHD to safely continue providing services. As we make this request, we must also accept that Morrow County may not select Morrow County Health District as an ambulance service provider. Please know that if this is the case, MCHD will do everything in our power to ensure a smooth transition to the next ambulance service provider.

We want to be clear that Morrow County Health District still wishes to be the ambulance service provider for all of Morrow County. We provide excellent care and we believe our teams are best equipped to care for Morrow County residents. We hope that mediation will bring this result. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that it has become unsafe for us to continue to operate without the full support of Morrow County.

This announcement will be hard for both our community and our first responders. We ask our community to please continue to support our ambulance crews and the Morrow County Health District during this difficult time. This is an evolving situation and we will continue to post updates to our social media and to our website at www.morrowcountyhealthdistrict.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Roberts
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