

## **Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting**

Thursday June 16, 2022

Meeting began at 4:01 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: Black Hawk County Sheriff, Black Hawk County Supervisor, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Hudson. Also present Chief Bostwick & Judy Flores.

1. Motion to approve the agenda by Hudson, second by Cedar Falls, motion carried.
2. Motion to approve Minutes of March 2022 meeting minutes by Dunkerton, second by Cedar Falls, motion carried

### **Coordinator report**

May/June 2022

#### Trainings/Drills

Upcoming trainings hosted by EMA August 23-24 Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing incidents. August 16-18 Rescue Task Force-Hostile Event interdiction. Instructors for both classes are provided by outside agencies.

CISA Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Virtual offering.

#### Meetings

IDHRC (elected vice chair), ISICS board meeting (EMA appointee), State 911 meeting, EMA District 6, Iowa Emergency Management Association Meeting, IEMA Awards Committee Meeting, STEP-C-ISAC, Black Hawk County 911, Safety Committees-Waterloo Schools, Service Areas 6 Healthcare Coalition. County Department Head Meeting, INRCOG Transit advisory committee.

#### Misc.

##### Organization

##### Response/Weather-

- Waiting on RC Systems as well as Bergan KDV to work in tandem to get the new siren server operational

##### Planning-

- Working on plans for National Cattle Congress with Jim Koch
- Working on ESF's 8- in progress awaiting plan reviews from Public Health on the portion they are included in. ESF's 6, 10 & 11 are ready for EMA Commission.

##### Exercise(s)-

- Pending exercise with Waterloo Airport for August,

##### Mitigation-

##### Other-

- Grants-EMPG ARPA 2021-waiting on Wright Way Trailers stock for trailer purchase on EMPG ARPA Grant. Reimbursement requests will be submitted in July for equipment that has been purchased on this grant. EMPG 2022 is submitted waiting on funding from FEMA to the State.
- EMA has fulfilled the Training Requirements and exercise requirements for this year.
- Governor Announced funding for school security due to recent events across the nation. All Schools in Iowa will be provided with a radio that is on the Statewide Radio Network or known as ISICS. There are some concerns that have not been addressed and not sure what the State has in place for those that are on a different network such as what we have in place here in Black Hawk County which is the SARA system. Sheriff Thompson as well as Communications Manager Judy Flores are also researching and posing questions as to how this will work with the SARA Network. More to come on this topic.

## Old Business

- A. COVID-19- No new changes or items.
- B. Drone Update- Sheriff Thompson briefed the commission on a goal for team is to have a tactical drone as well as a smaller done that can fly into confined areas. Arrangements have been made at the Sheriff's Office for testing and evaluation with a drone company out of the state. By working with this company and obtaining a robot from them it also comes with 2 mini drones which will be provided to the drone team. The robot is for research purposes. Tactical done is still work in progress.
- C. Hazmat training center- Sheriff Thompson spoke to Waterloo Fire Chief Treloar regarding personnel changes at the Training Center. Chief Treloar stated that there will be an EMS coordinator training center as well as fire training office. He also anticipates a greater usage for facility. Classrooms maybe in more demand, which will mean more coordination for the meeting rooms.

## New Business

- A. Funding options for consolidated communications- Sheriff Thompson and 911 Manager Judy Flores presented talking points to the Commission. As indicated last month there needs to be a conversation about options that are available within EMA and EMA over sight of 911 merging assets. As well as why legislation was recently passed to give EMA Commissions this possibility over 911 Boards. This new legislation stemmed from Mahaska County EMA and 911. This legislative fix was rather focused on and for the over sight of 911 boards this pertains to really just Mahaska County only. Black Hawk County is different as we have strong board and commission. No need for EMA to do anything with dispatch other than to have a solvent way to pay for communications year to year. Deltaworks is doing work study on the Communications Center, and we are waiting for their report to come out, which or should present funding options and funding. Knowing that 911 funds have been dwindling from surcharge monies, as well as 911 costs are increase. We have looked at Johnson County and how they fund their center through an EMA levy. This has been discussed and this would remove it off of the cities and into a countywide item. RACOM contacted Judy four months ago and advised that we are nearing end of life on some of the components of the "new" radio system. The systems components are 8-10yrs old. Some items will need to be replaced/upgraded. This will keep our network up and running. RACOM provided a forecast of 5 and 10 years for the county. The plan with build in insurance for us to know that our network will always be reliable. This is a graduated-out plan, first year is reasonable, then things get steeper for next 5-10 yrs. This will unfortunately not work with the current funding process for communications. Deltaworks has been gathering info. Phone, data, etc. they have everything they need current and are looking at ways to fund 911. Staffing, positions that do not have or that could evolve into other things. This will assist in how to fund communications, Deltaworks will have this study done in mid-august. They will come on site to do a presentation and provide input or ask questions. As an example, Johnson County started the levying 5-6 years after we consolidated. They do this through an EMA levy every year. Johnson County Communications Director Tom Jones does his budget and goes to the supervisors for the levy. Currently with funding for Black Hawk County, being only surcharge we keep dipping into carry over. Now the carry over fund is dwindling. In a year we will not be in a good position. Johnson County has a board that over sees this option, they work with multiple

assets to get items funding and keep communications operational. Within 1-2 years if funding isn't fixed in Black Hawk County communications could face some hardships. With these facts this is about the only method of funding. We are hopeful that Deltaworks can assist with providing options with their report, not sure what to do with this until Deltaworks comes back with their findings. Mayors are all on the oversight committee, this information will help in future meeting. Black Hawk County will be communicating with Johnson County to make sure we fully understand how this works. We want to be proactive and give reasonable problem-solving solutions. Hoping this will not be an enormous burden. The numbers that were being looked at are between 8-10 cents per 100k. There are a few counties in the state that are operating this way. Blake Derouchev with the State of Iowa 911 office did not have this readily accessible to this information but presumed about 4-5 counties are funding this way. Further questions were asked by EMA Commission members as to is the levy intended to cover maintenance, software, and equipment? And or adding staffing in that as well. The route that is being examined would intend to cover these items. Hudson stated they can get behind the equipment piece, the staffing should be in a different funding source. Johnson County does everything funded through the ema levy, the 911 surcharge offsets some of that. Deltaworks advised they stated we are running so lean that we have this type of operational status. This item will be kept on the EMA Commission agenda for further discussion.

- B. Emergency Support Functions 6, 10, 11 were emailed out to commission members for review. There were no questions or concerns on the 3 emergency support functions as presented. Motion for approval of Emergency Support Functions 6, 10, 11, by Hudson, second by Cedar Falls. All ayes.
- C. Updates to EMA Notification Policy Benson presented the EMA notification policy to the entire board prior to the meeting. Benson would like to meet with Judy Flores from 911 to review this policy and return to the board for further information or approval.

#### Items for General Discussion

Benson stated to the Commission members present that the Black Hawk County/Waterloo receiver for National Weather Service Weather radio is down, will let everyone know when this is back up and operational.

Motion to Adjourn Cedar Falls, second by Dunkerton. Aye.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2022 @ 4PM