

Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Thursday October 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: **Black Hawk Co. Sheriff, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Gilbertville, Evansdale, Hudson, Raymond, Waterloo**

Visitors Present: Laura Benson

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

Coordinator report

September/October 2022

Trainings/Drills

Online Pipeline training 10-2022

HSEMD Conference Oct. 12-14

Meetings

IDHRC (chair elect), ISICS board meeting (EMA appointee), EMA District 6, Iowa Emergency Management Association Meeting, IEMA Awards Committee Meeting, STEP-C-ISAC, Black Hawk County 911, Safety Committees- Waterloo Schools, Des Moines National Weather Service EMA meeting.

Misc.

Organization

League of Cities Booth

Response/Weather-

NWS and NOAA testbed for the VBOT.

Planning-

School Safety Assessments (LaPorte City, Lutheran Valley, Waterloo Christian, Waterloo Schools)

Started working on Emergency Support Functions for 2023 (ESF's 11,12,14,10 & RSF)

Exercise(s)-

Mitigation-

DNR debris management testbed. (Hudson)

Other-

Grants-EMPG ARPA 2021- awaiting reimbursement

EMPG 2022 is submitted waiting on partial reimbursement from the State.

EMA Training Requirements (what training track would commission like to see for EMA Benson)

Started working with the new BHCO Safety Coordinator, Brad Metcalf.

Mentoring new EMA from Delaware Co.

MC for Don Hampton Awards.

Outreach during Waterloo Fire Department's fire prevention open house

Old Business

1. **COVID-19-** (Ongoing) One thing to add both hospitals now have declared campuses elective for mask wearing. (Voluntary mask wearing.) Monitoring situation and will report. Cedar Falls asking if we can drop this from the agenda. There doesn't appear to be any changes in operations. Cedar Falls is requesting this item be removed from the future agendas unless this becomes highlight again. Motion by Raymond. Second Cedar Falls. all ayes.
2. **Drone Update-** Black Hawk County Engineer is interested in operating under the COA, they would like to purchase their own drone(s) as well as train their own pilots to take the burden off of the done team. Sheriff will talk with Jason and Cathy.
1. **Funding Options for 911 Communications-** Sheriff Thompson shared with the commission that the meeting was held 10/19 for the 911 Commission as well as Oversight Committee with Deltaworks for the 911 center study. The presentation was held for the mayors, there were 2 supervisors in attendance. The basic run down is we are a medium sized center, that is understaffed, it's being operated as a small center based on

staffing and budget. There will be updates to operational protocols, great recommendations for less costly clerk positions as opposed to a dispatcher. Good insightful research done. The larger items were the amount of staffing necessary to bring agency to its minimum staffing and funding levels. Black Hawk County did not provide Deltaworks with EMA levy info, but they have worked a lot in Iowa and did research on the levy. That was their recommendation. We assumed they would bring this forward as the funding mechanism. This will come down to perspectives on larger and smaller communities and their insights. Hudson stated they can understand staffing and space issue. Funding issue one thing is a concern having the entire cost on the property tax base, there was also discussion on the impact to the cities. Evansdale also concurs. Waterloo asked if there is any funding that comes from EMA, the answer is not currently. Sheriff explained 911 funding and the 911 surcharge monies received by Black Hawk County Consolidated Dispatch. Mayor Hart was in favor of a county tax, not sure if there is a proration of that tax. Cedar Falls was also discussed in goal setting, they also support countywide levy. There is a bit of ambiguity in the law as why EMA tax is not more wide spread. 29C.18 funds subsection 2. EMA agencies approved budget shall be funded by one or more funding. Levy, per cap, other funding source by law. It doesn't sound any different from city levy's the tiff districts are allowed to reimburse capital items. In Johnson County they pay for all equipment out of bonds. So, it's leveraged across tiff. EMA levy is like any other tax levy. Other thing brought up was if the commission decides they will levy, is it a pass through by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). BOS not interested in adding to a county tax. 29C says following options are available as determined by the commission. The important phrase is "as determined by the commission". Supervisors may have a discussion, may supplement levy under 331.424 (?) maintenance of EMA equipment pursuant to 29C. there are probably legal options, and he (Grant Veeder) is willing to investigate that as well. Judy Flores from 911 is working on the fiscal year 24 consolidated budget, will forward to BOS for the oversight committee. Once 911 approves the budget meeting can be called. Discussion was held regarding levy options farther.

2. **Black Hawk County Trails** – EMA Benson Presented a Green Light Homes option. The Green Light Homes is a safe location for shelter and other items during Ragbrai that has been used in a County here in Iowa. Benson stated there would be some leg work of course to check status of homes to ensure safety. Visitor Laura Benson stated she would like to do a pilot program with possibly Cedar Falls to see the trails as well as initiation of the safety items she has brought forward to the Commission. Cedar Falls intent is wanting to be cohesive with EMA work.

New Business

1. Addition of Part-time EMA employee-EMA Benson stated her office has been busy with school safety assessments, as well as multiple other items that take her out of the office several days a month. It would be beneficial to have someone on staff that could handle the day-to-day operations while she is gone. This would be paying claims, answering phone, as well as assisting with EMA yearly plans. Benson will work with HR for job desc, and etc. She will also reach out to other counties that may have a parttime job desc and information. Motion by Raymond and second by Evansdale to start the process for implementing parttime EMA employee with anticipated start date after first of the year. All ayes.
2. EMA Training for 2022-2023-EMA Benson inquired with the Commission if there was a training course or line of training, they would like to have her follow for the 2022-2023 year. The Commission did not have any specific line of trainings for Benson, she will look at trainings for next year with HSEMD. As well as have ideas for the next EMA Commission meeting.

Items for General Discussion- Jerome Amos with Waterloo stated this could be his last meeting for EMA Commission as he is seeking an elected position with the State of Iowa. Come January if things go correctly then he will be resigning the city. Wishing Gerome good luck.

Cedar Falls attended a great training in Eldora. The course is FEMA in Eldora, regarding recovery.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2022 @ 4PM

Motion by Dunkerton, second by Cedar Falls for adjournment at 5:01PM