

Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Thursday December 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: Black Hawk Co. Board of Supervisors, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Hudson, LaPorte City, Raymond, Waterloo.

Visitors Present: Jason Dolf Black Hawk County Drone Team, Michelle Weidner Black Hawk County Finance Officer, Michael Treinen Black Hawk County Attorney's Office, Amanda Fesenmeyer Black Hawk County Human Resources. Bridgett Wood City of Waterloo Finance Manager.

Motion to approve the agenda as well as November Minutes by Waterloo, second by Dunkerton, motion carried.

Coordinator report

November/December 2022

Meetings

IDHRC (chair) monthly board, council, executive, financial committee meetings, 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, Black Hawk Co Department Head Meeting,

Misc.

Organization

Response/Weather-

- NWS and NOAA testbed for the VBOT.

Planning-

- School Safety Assessments (Cedar Falls, Don Bosco, Dunkerton)
- Started working on Emergency Support Functions for 2023 (ESF's 11,12,14,10 & RSF)

Exercise(s)-

- Working on Table Top TTX for Waterloo Airport Full Scale exercise in summer 2023
- Requests from Northern Iowa Rail Road, Master Brand, Hydrite for Table Top Exercises in 2023

Mitigation-

- DNR debris management testbed. (Hudson)
- Red Cross provided 50 clean up kits to BHCO EMA.

Other-

- Grants-EMPG ARPA 2021- reimbursement received,
- EMPG 2022 partial reimbursement received.
- EMA Training Requirements 12 state required hours are fulfilled.
- Mentoring new EMA from Delaware Co.
- Will be working with Kaitlin Emrich from Public Health on job description for shared EM/PH position.

Old Business

1. **Drone Update-** (Dolf) Has been quiet for call outs. Still working on getting couple guys up to date on training, after that they will be deployable. Everything is ready to go if support is needed.
2. **Funding Options for 911 Communications-** 28E is still working in progress it has been presented to the oversight committee, there were also questions regarding the ema levy, as well as the ask for dispatch regarding the budgets at 100% or the 150%.

Board of Supervisor held discussion on 28E agreement, it was very recently provided to Oversight Committee, not sure many have had time to look at it yet. She also has a concern about rushing this for FY 24. Also stressed concern that supervisors have not attended some of the meetings, but also making sure we keep dialog open and everyone to have the same information. There are also some questions as to the

Dispatch Center being housed at county facilities, as well as are the 911 employees being county employees. Those are some questions and concerns that need to be addressed. Levy has been a discussion item for several years; some officials may not be up to date as we all need to be. We need to be transparent to the communities/citizens. we still need to keep going forward and get things addressed, want to get all the questions answered that a tax payer would ask. It is an opportunity to move forward. Would like to see a plan of how the funds will be spent and utilized.

Waterloo stated this topic has been talking about this for I'm not sure how many years, this was an uncomfortable conversation, because of the pay mechanism. Waterloo was adamant to get study done to bring everyone together and move forward. One shocking items, something we can't put a value on is how grossly underfunded things were, not having the staffing, that is a greater safety issue. If it takes this mechanism to get the funding services needed, then it needs to move to the levy. Also very shocking was the amount of staffing that it takes to run the center. We are at a point we can act, that was an independent study not driven by any elected official. Waterloo asked for clarification on who the employees are, is it a community or an organization. Amanda with HR advised they are county employees, but it is a unique situation that assist with the operational abilities of 911. Johnson county's 911 is a separate entity from the county. EMA Benson explained that there is not a standard of how 911 centers work across the state, in the aspect of they can fall under various entities.

Cedar Falls-the discussion for a 150% was a discussion that was put out there, but nothing has been set as to what the levy would be. Would like to for us to vote to enact the levy, if not this year, then next. If we are looking at 150%, do we want to lay some strategies out for numbers for the levy.

Hudson-advised he proposed the 150%. How should the funding be costed out by calls or by population. 150% out there that we realized that in the future it will be a big number. Hudson stated it's not to say that we should do 150 next year but figuring out what that number is, how to keep it stable for tax payers and communities. Moving this to an assessment to the towns lets be aware of what that number would be.

Agree with Board of Supervisor that is seems rushed, let's get it done that it is practical, if that is not for fiscal year 2024, then get it fort next years' time with the numbers and the services that everyone needs.

Dunkerton all cities and county need to take a look at the 28E, and to make sure all the City Councils are aware of the changes, the 28E states it only takes Waterloo, Cedar Falls and County can ratify it.

New Business, no new business

1. **EMA Budget FY2023 workshop**-EMA presented the initial budget numbers for the upcoming fiscal year 2024. EMA will continue to work with County Finance to obtain numbers for salary and benefits for the hiring of a part-time employee that will be a shared position with Black Hawk County Public Health. As soon as EMA has the updated salary information the preliminary budget will be emailed out to the mayors for review. EMA Benson did state that the numbers presented tonight do not reflect Consolidated Dispatch budget that would need to be added to the EMA budget for the Levy.
2. **Proposal of Rotating Meeting Locations for 2023**, Cedar Falls spoke to members present on the idea of doing rotating meetings are out communities in Black Hawk County. This would provide everyone with the ability to see what resources and capabilities are available within that community. Members agreed this would be a good idea. EMA also suggested that the mayors can invite their Council Members to the meetings in their communities so they can also have a working knowledge of EMA Commission and how we can assist in times of need. It was decided upon that the January 2023 meeting will be held in Cedar Falls at the Public Safety Office.

Items for General Discussion,

Cedar Falls- is working in partnership with League of Cities to hold an Iowa Local Elected Officials disaster response seminar for mayors to better understand their response, and responsibilities to disasters. This seminar will be 30 hours total, at the end attendees will have a certification that the League of Cities is coming up with.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2023 @ 4PM

Motion by Dunkerton, second by Evansdale for adjournment at 4:48PM