

Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Thursday March 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call of Members Present: Black Hawk County Sheriff, Black Hawk Co. Board of Supervisors, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Hudson, LaPorte City, Waterloo.

Visitors Present: Michelle Weidner Black Hawk County Finance Officer, Michael Treinen Black Hawk County Attorney's Office, Bridgett Wood City of Waterloo Finance Manager, Tom Little Black Hawk County Board of Supervisor

Motion to approve the agenda by Dunkerton, second by Hudson, motion carried.

Motion to approve February Commission, by Hudson, second by Dunkerton, motion carried. Was requested after vote by Black Hawk County Supervisor that corrections are made to the February minutes regarding budget hearing, EMA Levy discussion on vote for resolution regarding EMA Levy.

Coordinator report

February 2023/March 2023

Trainings

Meetings

- IDHRC (chair) monthly board, full council, executive, financial committee, COAD Network, National VOAD meetings.
- ISICS-board meeting (EMA appointee), FirstNet Broadband Committee (Chair).
- Iowa Emergency Management-Spring Association Meeting, IEMA Awards Committee Meeting, STEP-C-ISAC, IEMA 29C meeting, Statewide EMA call with HSEMD, SF352 Update.
- BHCO- 911 meetings, Department Head Meeting.
- Northeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (NIRG LEPC)

Misc.

Organization

Response/Weather-

- NWS and NOAA testbed for the VBOT.
- NWS, Marion Co EM, AlertIowa collaboration for PSA's on AlertIowa (see FB post)
- Monthly Siren test-March

Planning-

- Working on Emergency Support Functions for 2023 (ESF's Done-11,12,14. In progress-10 & RSF)

Exercise(s)-

- Working on Table Top TTX for Waterloo Airport, for March 24th. Full Scale exercise in August 2023
- Working with Sarah Eggerts from HSEMD to get an RSF Recovery workshop scheduled, looking at April 6th, 2023, invitations sent.
- Vigilant Guard Exercise with the Iowa National Guard, TTX will be held August 2023

Mitigation-

- DNR debris management testbed. (Hudson) awaiting FEMA approval.

Other-

- Mentoring new EMA from Delaware Co.
- Working with Kaitlin Emrich, Public Health and Amanda Fesenmeyer, HR on job description for shared EM/PH position.
- Presentation to Service Area 1B Coalition in Knoxville, IA

Old Business

1. Drone Update (Dolf)-None.
2. Hudson Debris Management Plan-EMA Benson explained that she has been working with City of Hudson, DNR, HSEMD (Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management) on a pilot program for debris management plans for the City of Hudson. The plan has been written with assistance from all involved. The plan has been sent to FEMA for approval. We are all awaiting the FEMA approval, which could take a while. Once this document has been approved EMA Benson will reach out to all Communities in the county to see if they would like to develop a debris management plan. EMA Benson will also email out a copy of the draft Hudson plan for everyone to review.

3. EMA Levy, Subcommittee Discussion- Sheriff Thompson started the discussion as to when we left this last month it was a proposal, Black Hawk County Supervisors was going to take to the full board to see if they would entertain the subcommittees.

Black Hawk County Supervisor-questions in February, everyone was made aware of merging dispatch and EMA is up to the Board of Supervisors. After speaking to supervisors, we can take this item to the Board for a vote if that is what the commissioners want. It's a feeling of the Board that subcommittee is premature until the Supervisors decide how they want to go forward on EMA and dispatch. Supervisors are not necessarily saying they want the levy but want to do some research.

Hudson-wanting to look at a levy for next year, I presume the best way this would work would be merging with EMA and dispatch. I would like to see a time line for the countywide levy for next year so we can see what needs to be accomplished. From the subcommittee perspective, was to assist in any way possible to get to the levy. If someone can put together a timeline, presuming Supervisors vote for the merger, then we can get things going. The subcommittee wasn't a forced thing it was a recommendation to be of assistance.

Dunkerton- Subcommittees would help move things along. Progress to get this done next year if we don't do anything nothing will happen.

Supervisor- Not saying subcommittees can't work together isn't a good thing. Direction by the county needs to be established. Supervisor Laylin has questions on subcommittees, to take action on the 28E agreement and was there an agreement.

Sheriff Thompson-The 28E was proposed years ago, every time we change the funding structure, we have to re-ratify it. Our Attorney, Steve, wrote the 80\20 out and wrote funding by property valuation in. The very last paragraph of 28E has weighed the majority of Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Black Hawk County. The Sheriff knows that Cedar Falls voted against this. The way it is written if Cedar Falls votes against it, the 28E is null and void. Steve's recommendation was to leave the simple majority to keep the 28E in place. As Sheriff and Assistant County Attorney Mike Treinen were talking things through, this is not a simple contract. A 28E if you don't sign it how can you be held to it. A simple majority, if one person says no, how can everyone predicate this. Mike Treinen was also asked, and he did agree. The problem with this 28E is that you're going to be taxed 80/20 even though the oversight committee says to go to property valuation. This needs to be worked out prior to July 1, so the new metric is in place for consolidated dispatch center. With the current temperature I'm not sure that will happen. Not sure if this is the right way to do this. Mike Treinen- Agrees that if we have anyone not on the 28E, not a party to it, concerns about the simple majority can amend it. Does that leave the amended in place with the simple majority to approve it. In order to be adopted it had to be agreed to by Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Black Hawk County. The idea there was to not have an agreement that wasn't bought into by the population base of the county, creates some problems, any entities can enter into a 28E, anyone not on it isn't a part of it. This does bind Cedar Falls. The other agreement is in effect until someone pulls out of it, with a year's notice. Right now, we are at an impasse on this amendment issue.

Sheriff Thompson-The consolidated comm center has an issue because the oversight committee elected to go a direction that was not a part of the 28E, and now we have a situation where we likely have an impasse in that you are not going to have a 28E agreed to allow that funding mechanism. The current 28E indicating an 80/20 is still in effect come July 1, which isn't what anyone wants to do.

Hudson-Was the 90/10 done by an amendment? Sheriff Thompson answered, yes. That was 2 years ago, and everyone signed off on that. Judy (Flores) keeps those documents. We have to pay for the board's attorneys time to rewrite it even though it's a paragraph. It's been standard that every year there is a change. If we leave the last paragraph in Cedar Falls will not sign it.

Hudson- In worst case scenario we will be stuck with the current 28E and 80/20 for financing.

Sheriff- Not sure if we can tax for 80/20 because that isn't what the oversight committee chose to do. Mike will have to investigate that. As the oversight board action was timely and in keeping with the spirit of the 28E, but maybe not with the timeline of the 28E.

Bridget Wood did note that it was budgeted for in Cedar Falls already.

This 28E is responsive to move forward with property evaluation. This is the band aid prior to Mike's rewrite, which should be better well written 28E. This gets us into a transitional year for 2024. Mayor Green is not online to update, Hudson budgeted for property tax value, and budgeted Consolidated

Communications at 150%. The sheriff isn't sure if this is an actionable item. Judy emailed it out. Another piece of this is the April meeting you have 2 meetings prior to this being a huge problem. Dunkerton has not gotten the new 28E with the property evaluations, Evansdale stated it was sent to Mike on 2-28-23. Clarification, it was the new 28E that was sent. Evansdale posed a question; does this say majority not supermajority? That is correct per Sheriff Thompson.

New Business-

1. Chair and Vice Chair election-Sheriff Thompson lead the discussion that this is out of cycle, however, upon returning from a trip on Monday, he called Mayor Green, who is not seeking reelection. What his thoughts were about making a transitional plan for EMC. Stepping down now allows for new chair and vice to be in leadership roles now and assist with acclimations. Green was in favor. It is the Sheriff's recommendation to establish election for chair and vice chair for April commission meeting. To fill those 2 vacancies, it is not bad practice to establish transitional opportunity of changing chairs and vice. As they transition at end of terms.
Discussion was continued as to other elected officials that will be up for reelection, there are 4 not up for reelection next year. Hudson is not seeking reelection. The majority will be up for reelection. The sheriff requests action on this topic, as next month he will be resigning as commission chair.
Elk Run Heights praised Sheriff Thompson for the job he's done and will be difficult to replace him.
Dunkerton stated that make sure to put it out that we will have an election next month and it will be voted upon.
Hudson wanting to use the term interim chair and vice to run term to end December 31 motion by Dunkerton second by Evansdale, all ayes. Add as new business next month.
2. The location of the April monthly meeting will be the EMA Office.

Items for General Discussion

Severe Weather Preparedness week is March 27-31. Each day will feature a different severe weather topic. The information will be posted on social media. Wednesday March 29th is the statewide tornado drill that EMA will be participating in by setting off the outdoor warning sirens 10AM. Press releases have been sent out to all media outlets.

Motion for adjournment by Dunkerton, second by Evansdale, all ayes. Adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2023 @ 4PM at the Emergency Management Office