

Cedar County Joint Emergency Management Commission
1410 Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772
(563)886-3355

The regular quarterly meeting of the Cedar County Joint Emergency Management Commission was held on October 3, 2024, both in-person and by online forum with the call originating from the Cedar County EMA Administrative Offices at 1410 Cedar Street, Tipton, IA 52772. Those attending in-person included: Jon Bell, Cedar County Supervisor; Warren Wethington, Cedar County Sheriff; Tammi Goerdts, Mayor of Tipton; Roger Laughlin, Mayor of West Branch; Joe Sparks, Mayor of West Branch; Dan Sterner, Durant City Council Member; Matt Shields, Mechanicsville Fire Department; Michael Tharp, Stanwood City Council member; Jodi Freet, Director Cedar County EMA/911; Mindy Beekman, Office Coordinator Cedar County EMA; Sue Hall, Press. Attending virtually was Jeff Stieret, MCM Consulting LLC.

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Sterner made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Goerdts. Motion carried.

Sparks made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2024 regular meeting; seconded by Goerdts. Motion carried.

Chairman Bell yielded the floor to Freet to discuss expenditures and revenues from the previous quarter. Atypical expenses for July were as follows: \$9,185.25 to Johnson County HazMat for retainer, \$1,896.00 to Mainstay Systems of Iowa for 24/25 IT Retainer, \$6,181.00 and \$2,768.00 to Heartland Insurance Risk Pool for Property, General and Cyber insurance, and \$300.00 to The Cedar County Fair for rental of the Matthews Building for the FEMA Ag Event. August expenses brought no atypical expense. September end of month was not complete at time of meeting. Motion to approve expenditures by Laughlin; seconded by Sterner. Motion carried.

Freet provided updates on old business:

- a. Building updates:
 - i. Water fountain – does not work. Keeping on list. Freet advised is looking for a grant to fund replacement
 - ii. Insurance recommendation – electrical panels have been fixed. Freet to reach out to Crist to repair emergency lighting.
 - iii. Freet advised that herself and Beekman have been painting the main office area and also cleaning carpets in lieu of spending money on vendors.
- b. Grants:
 - i. Freet advised that she will be purchasing a Davis weather station and has already purchased 75 weather radios with funds granted from the Community Action Foundation Grant. The weather radio distribution to Cedar County families that have completed a family emergency plan has restarted and 5 radios have been given out at this time. Freet purchased the radios direct from Midland.
 - ii. Freet advised that the EMPG 2024 has been awarded as of 9/27/24. There was a 7.1% decrease in the \$22,000 award versus the \$23,750 award from 2023.

- iii. Freet advised that she applied for the Theisen's Grant in June with a focus on weather or animal focus if possible.
- iv. Walmart Foundation Grant has been applied for to go toward animal rescue in the county but there are problems getting the grant through the process.
- c. IEMA Conference – November 15-21, 2024 in Colorado Springs, CO. International conference that includes pre-event training. IEMA will be reimbursing \$2,000 towards total conference, flight and hotel reservations.
- d. Freet presented the FEMA National Qualifications Standards (NQS) skillsets approval of Situational Awareness and Leadership. Tharp made a motion to approve; seconded by Sterner. Motion carried. Vice Chair Wethington has agreed to sign off on skillset approval.
- e. Cedar County EMS – Jeff Stiert from MCM Consulting LLC gave update as to beginning the EMS Director search and the setting of the Director's salary.

Chairman Bell yielded the floor to Director Freet to discuss planning, training, exercises and outreach.

- a. Planning, Training, Exercises, Outreach -
 - i. ESF 7 (Logistics), ESF 3 (Public Works) has been presented for adoption. Laughlin made a motion to adopt; Goerdt seconded. Motion approved.
 - ii. Planning realignment with HSEMD changed to the State Fiscal Year with everything due by May except for ESF 10 (HazMat).
 - iii. Freet explained that there is a need to update THIRA in the First Quarter of 2025. There is no record of when the last THIRA was done. She will start visiting council meetings to get hazard ratings in order to update.
 - iv. Supplemental plans are still in process. There is now a schedule for them through 2032.
- b. Training -
 - i. Freet advised there is not a current training schedule as she is revisioning where to apply focus.
 - ii. ICS Training will be opened to the public and First Thursdays will be changed to Second Thursdays to be more inclusive of people that are unable to attend the first week of the month. Trainings will be announced on social media to encourage the public to attend.
 - iii. Freet advised that she will be attending the Iowa Homeland Security Conference – October 8-11, 2024.
 - iv. ICS Training Offerings will be emailed to commission members the week after the meeting. The trainings are listed in the agenda.
- c. Exercises
 - i. Freet reiterated exercise realignment at HSMED including changes to the types of exercises accepted by the state. HSMED is calling for more tabletop exercises and a full-scale exercise.
 - ii. Freet reminded that there will be a countywide tabletop exercise on January 9, 2025 at 8am.
- d. Outreach
 - i. Freet discussed completing verification on X for the gray checkmark. She has begun working on Facebook, Instagram and threads.
 - ii. Cedar County EMA was represented at Hoover Hometown Days
 - iii. Freet advised that Cedar County EMA will be at Oktoberfest on October 13, 2024
 - iv. Freet will be attending the Landlords of Iowa Conference in Burlington as it has to do with the Housing RSF

New Business

- a. Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan – waiting on the BRIC grant as it has not been awarded yet.
- b. Weather Radio program, as stated earlier, has been relaunched. 75 radios have been purchased and 5 have been given out with proof of family emergency plan.
- c. Current disaster status –
 - i. May 21-24, 2024 Severe Weather is still open as a Presidential Declaration.
 1. FEMA Activity -Agricultural Resource Fair – under 10 people attended and damages in Cedar County were not enough to qualify for USDA aid.
- d. Freet discussed the preliminary 2025/2026 budget.
- e. Cedar County Handbook – Exceptions – Freet advised that EMA will need to make some exceptions to the handbook at the January meeting. Exceptions would be focused on the use of social media as outreach and education. Credit Card usage would be the other exception.
- f. Freet advised that she has recently met with HSMED regarding a warehouse supply center. She stated that in disaster, it would not make sense to drive two hours to get supplies. She has also met with Scott County regarding equipment typing using GPS and will be pursuing this further with the Fire Departments.

Personnel/Office Updates

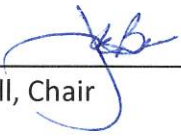
- a. Freet advised that she has been reappointed as the Iowa Representative to IAEM.

Issues from Public or Emergency Responders – none.


The next regular meeting will be January 9, 2025 at 7pm at 1410 Cedar Street, Tipton

Sparks made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Laughlin. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Approved January 9, 2025



Jon Bell, Chair



Jodi Freet, EMA Director