

MAHASKA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

214 High Avenue East Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

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Mahaska County EMA Commission Meeting Minutes

The Mahaska County EMA Commission met on Thursday, February 1st, 2024, at the Conservation Complex located at 2342 Hwy 92, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Renterghem at 6:00 P.M.

Members Attending:

Keri Lamberson, Doug Greenlee, Tom Van Der Veer, Sherri Baxter, Kim Sytsma, John Butler, Russ Van Renterghem, George Toubekis (phone), Mark Groenendyk, & Joe Caligiuri

Non-Members: Patti Sines, Cheryl Eklofe, Josh Stevens, Ben Johnston, Mark Neff

1. **Approve the current agenda**
 - **Motion by Groenendyk to approve the agenda, seconded by Greenlee, all in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Approve meeting minutes from the January 10th, 2024 meeting**
 - **Motion by Toubekis to approve the minutes, seconded by Baxter, motion carried. Systma abstained.**
3. **Public Comment**
 - A discussion was held regarding school safety in the county. Sheriff Van Renterghem and Josh provided information to the group regarding their involvement with schools. Training and drills take place regularly and each school district is a mutual partner. Members were invited to contact Josh if they would like more information or to attend a drill/exercise.
4. **Update on the fund transfer from the 911 fund to EMA fund**
 - Josh provided information to the Commission regarding the fund transfer. The fund transfer was completed on January 23rd in the amount of \$171,344.76.
5. **2024 – 2025 EMA Budget – Discussion/Action**
 - a) **Public Hearing**
 - **A motion was made by Caligiuri to open the public hearing, seconded by Groenendyk, all in favor, motion carried. No written or oral comments were received by Josh prior to the meeting. Member of the public Mark Neff asked about the levy rate for the EMA levy. At this time, the levy rate is determined by the published amount for the public hearing and land valuations. A motion**

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was made by Groenendyk to close the public hearing, seconded by Van Deer Veer, all in favor, motion carried.

b) 2024-2025 Budget

- Josh presented the budget information to the Commission. A discussion was held. A motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget was made by Groenendyk, seconded by Lamberson, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Audit Update

- Josh updated the Commission on the effort to find firms to conduct an audit. Josh contacted 3 firms that were identified at the January meeting. Only one firm has contacted him back and they will be sending information soon. Josh advised that he will make contact with the remaining two firms again and update the group.

7. Benefits – Discussion/Action

- Josh provided an update to the members after speaking to several attorneys. Each legal recommendation advised that the Commission was responsible for the vacation and compensatory time. A discussion was held about the overall cost and the EMA/911 shared cost. **A motion was made by Sytsma to pay the EMA portion of the vacation time in the amount of \$3,575.04, seconded by Caligiuri, all in favor, motion carried. Van Deer Veer made a motion to pay the EMA portion of the comp time in the amount of \$8,778.00, seconded by Caligiuri, all in favor, motion carried.**

8. Claims Review

9. Public Comments

- Josh provided an update on the outdoor warning siren project taking place in Leighton and Keomah Village. The weather has delayed the project at this time. The vendor will be in contact and evaluate when the project will move forward based on ground conditions.

10. Next Meeting – Doodle Poll

11. Adjourn

- Caligiuri motioned to adjourn, Van Der Veer seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.