MAHASKA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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Mahaska County EM Commission
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

The Mahaska County EM Commission met on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, at the Mahaska County Law Center, 214 High Ave East, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577.

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

Members Attending:
Keri Lamberson, Tom Van Der Veer, Kim Sytsma, Doug Greenlee, Joe Caligiuri, Marcia Slycord, and Russ Van Renterghem.

Non-Members: Josh Stevens & Cheryl Eklofe

Approve the current agenda

- Motion by Slycord to approve the agenda, seconded by Caligiuri, all in favor, motion carried.

Approve meeting minutes from the February 4th, 2026 meeting

- Motion by Greenlee to approve the minutes, seconded by Van Der Veer, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments - None

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

- We are currently in phase 2 of 3 for the plan update. A lot of surveys have been going out. Please reach out to Josh or the contractor Mike for questions or clarification. There are a lot of questions about mitigation projects and floodplain ordinances.

Plans Update: ESFs, debris management, COOP

- Josh provided the Commission with information on plans that are currently being updated or created. As always 20% of the disaster plan (ESFs) are being updated this year. Josh is working on updating the debris management plan and has met with some of the cities to verify information contained in the previous plan. Josh also provided information on a Continuity of Operation plan (COOP) that will look at processes and preparation that should happen that will allow for business to be conducted if we have a disaster. More information to come on that plan in the near future.

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Outdoor Warning Siren Update

- Josh covered the outdoor warning siren system (OWS) as a whole. One of the sirens is in need of more significant repair currently and needs to be replaced in the next two years. The approximate cost is $71,000 for a new siren and new pole. Josh would like to do some fundraising similar to the last few siren projects to help off-set the cost. The Commission stated it would be a good idea to put a line item in the budget so that we can start saving for this replacement. Josh mentioned that newer sirens cover more area so he will be working with the vendor to create a plan as we move forward in the future.

Grants Update

- Josh updated the Commission on the state/federal grants that we use. The emergency management performance grant is underway and back on track after the recent government shutdowns at the federal level. The hazard mitigation grant is being used to update our current plan. Hazardous materials emergency planning grant is used to fund hazmat training and reimbursees us at 100%. We've made good use of this grant over the years.

Claim Review

- The Commission reviewed the claims.

Procurement Policy Update

- Josh presented the current procurement policy to the Commission. The current policy has a limit of $2000 for purchases without Commission approval and has been in place since 2014. Josh asked the Commission to raise the purchase limit from $2000 to $3000 before needing Commission approval. Motion by Greenlee, seconded by Van Der Veer, all in favor, motion carried.

Activity Report

- Josh covered the activity report that was provided.

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Public Comments - None

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be in early January. The budget will be the main topic. With the exception of a siren line item, no significant changes are expected.

Adjourn

- Lamberson motioned to adjourn, Caligiuri seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.