



October 19, 2022

Meeting called to order by Matt Kuhn at 1915.

Commission members present: James Mitchell, Amy Laures, Randy Taylor, Matt Kuhn, Bobby Schwickerath, Mark Mueterthies

Absent: Jim Ashley, Samantha Johnson, David Geerts, Martin Hemann

Guests: Terry Johnson and Brannon Anderson

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Schwickerath, to approve the agenda. All Ayes, Motion Carried

Motion by Mitchell, seconded by Laures to approve the September 13, 2022 Emergency Management Commission meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried

Bernatz addressed the commission about the new county owned ambulance service and possibly adding ambulance responder to the EMA job description. Currently when Bernatz goes on an ambulance call during business hours, he clocks out for the time it takes to complete that ambulance call and that is documented on his timecard. As far as payroll goes, Bernatz already has EMA and MEL, two different titles with different budgets, on his timecard and asked if the Auditor's Office could just add EMS the same way those are being done. Kuhn advised he would talk to the Auditor's Office.

Mitchell applauded Bernatz for wanting to help the county owned ambulance service fill shifts, but wondered if it would interfere with EMA performance. Bernatz advised Mitchell that he was not looking to take regular shifts but maybe fill in gaps in the schedule or backup crew during transfers.

Mitchell was concerned that hours taken for EMS call time is lost by the EMA Commission and with EMA being salary, it would be hard not to see it as double dipping even if it was entered in different areas of the timecard. Taylor suggested would probably have to take vacation from EMA to cover EMS hours.

(Terry) Johnson asked why Bernatz attends the Board of Health meetings, Bernatz advised that Public Health and EMA work together in Emergency Preparedness through Service Area 2.

Taylor stated that they should talk to the county Human Resources department on how this would work, Kuhn advised he will talk to the county HR department. Mitchell requested to have answer before budget work sessions.

Bernatz gave the commission an update on the county owned ambulance service. The EMS Direct job has been offered to one of the three applicants pending background checks. Durable equipment has started to arrive. Advisory committee is working on SOGs and protocols. There was a recruiting meeting for the current local EMS providers to bring them up to speed on the progress. Two new ambulances have been ordered. First one will be here early December. There will be another recruiting event on November 3rd for the public at the Chickasaw Event Center. On-line application are due October 28, 2022 at 4pm.

Mitchell discussed maybe the need to restructure EMS in the county and that Fredericksburg Fire has an old ambulance currently being used as their rescue truck that could be converted back to an ambulance is needed. Kuhn also mentioned that discussions were had about other department (FD, Rescue, LEO) members driving the ambulance if the medically trained crew driver was needed in the back of the ambulance. Kuhn advised he would talk to the insurance company about that.

Chickasaw County EMA will be hosting an EMT class again this year at the Ionia Fire Station to help boost EMS in Chickasaw County.

Board of Supervisor are working with the City of New Hampton for garage space where the current ambulances are housed. Also looking for living quarters for the staff. EMS Director will setup a temporary office in the EMA Directors office. Board of Supervisors have hired the Samuels Group to do a study on the Community Services Building and the Heritage to determine what would be the best location for permanent quarters.

Bernatz discussed an issue that arose from the reimbursement from the CP Rail train derailment. Procedurally, when a hazmat situation happens and cleanup is completed EMA bills the spiller for all department's expenses. For this incident, Chickasaw Co EMA billed CP Rail for expenses for Fredericksburg Fire, Ionia Fire, Chickasaw Rescue, and Chickasaw EMA (New Hampton Fire submitted their own bill). Chickasaw EMA billed for expenses using the *Iowa Fire Service Hazmat Fee Schedule* that is approved annually. Historically the spiller pays that bill to the Chickasaw County Firefighter Association. The Chickasaw County Fire Association took 10% off the top to be used to purchase county-wide hazmat equipment and then wrote check of the remain balance to those departments that responded respectively. With this incident, New Hampton Fire received their check directly and refused to pay the 10% back to the county fire association. This was discussed at the next county fire association meeting and it was voted to cease the 10% capture and all the money goes back to the responding departments. Checks were written for the full amount by the county fire association treasurer and given to the departments.

Supervisor Hackman advised Supervisor Chair Kuhn of his strong belief that Chickasaw County Rescue Squad should not receive this money. Mitchell asked how Supervisor Hackman even knew about these receipts, Kuhn replied good question, he brought them to me. Kuhn also advised that Supervisor Hackman told him that we (EMC) better not come ask for a 200,000 budget. Mitchell expressed with great frustration that the Board of Supervisors cannot dictate the EMA budget.

Bernatz also discussed comments made Supervisor Hackman about evicting the Rescue Squad because they are not part of the county and they may need that space. Bernatz advised the commission that he has documents showing that the purpose of the Community Services Building was to house Public

Health and the Rescue Squad. 52 dedicated Volunteer EMS providers were pretty upset by these comments. Bernatz will address this topic at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Taylor to adjourn at 2030



Jeff Bernatz, Coordinator
Chickasaw County Emergency Management