



November 30, 2022

Meeting called to order by Matt Kuhn at 1906

Commission members present: Amy Laures, Jim Ashley, James Mitchell, Randy Taylor, Mark Muetherthies, Samantha Johnson, David Geerts, Matt Kuhn, Martin Hemann

Absent: Bobby Schwickerath

Guests: Sheriton Dettmer, Jacob Hackman, Abe Karels, Jeremy McGrath, Doreen Cook, Jessie Durnan, Jim Cook, Scott Cerwinske, Rick Kramer,

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

Motion by Geerts, seconded by Johnson to approve the October 19, 2022 Emergency Management Commission meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried

Mitchell discussed the new structure of EMS in Chickasaw County with the new county owned ambulance service. Mitchell gave suggestion of merging Chickasaw County Rescue Squad with the county ambulance service. Ashley addressed the Commission that without seeing the ambulance budget, they better not be raising any rates. Taylor suggested waiting a year to see where the ambulance budget is at before we discuss this change, Johnson agreed. Karels reminded the commission that there are first responders that respond with their personal vehicle and never get on the rescue truck, but for the sake of this discussion, EMA/Rescue Squad provides all the training, supplies, and insurance for all members. This topic will be revisited in one year.

Budget discussion. Bernatz handed out the budget worksheets for the Commission to review. Bernatz explained that the EMS training line item was decreased by \$15,000. For the last few years EMA has been hosting an EMT class to help increase EMS responders in our county, now with the county owned ambulance service they will pay for training out of that budget. Rescue Squad/First Responders will still be taking EMS classes which is why the \$5,000 remains on that line item.

Bernatz talked about the major equipment line item; the Command Center will be completed in phases. Phase 1 will be to purchase the trailer itself out of this year's budget and have the custom work done out of next year's budget.

Bernatz also discussed putting money towards garage space for EMA and EMS at the Community Services Building.

Bernatz discussed the money set aside for hazmat; commission agreed to cut the dollar amount in half.

Bernatz addressed the commission on how we should go about updating the Rescue truck, should it be budgeted of the next 3-5 years or one single budget request. Hemann recommended budgeting over the next few years. Cook mentioned talking to industries about donations towards a new truck. McGrath advised that he liked the thought of saving up money over a couple of years to pay for the truck and not

just come with a request to purchase the truck all at once. Johnson asked where that money was held, Bernatz advised her that it stays in the pooled cash. Kuhn advised that the Auditor told him that the interest from the EMA pooled cash goes into fund 0001, Kuhn did not know why it did not go back into the EMA fund.

McGrath suggested putting money into a CD, which is currently over 4% right now. Kuhn advised that he talked to the private auditor about that and they did not recommend that because if for some reason you would have to pull that money out there would be a penalty.

Kuhn asked where the commission thinks the pooled cash amount should be, Mitchell recommended to leave it alone especially if we're going to budget for a truck over a few years.

Motion by Ashley to take last years budget and add \$50,000 (\$272,995), motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion by Muetherthies, second by Hemann to leave the asking amount the same as last year (\$222,608). Roll Call: Alta Vista – No, Bassett – No, Fredericksburg – No, Ionia – No, Nashua – No, North Washington – NO, Supervisors – No, Sheriff – No. Motion fails

Motion by Johnson, second by Ashley for the FY23 EMA budget amount to be \$242,069.00 (\$257,069 - \$15,000 EMPG Grant = \$242,069) Roll Call: Nashua – Yes, Bassett – Yes, Alta Vista – Yes, Fredericksburg – No, Ionia- Yes, Lawler – Yes, North Washington – Yes, Supervisor – No, Sheriff – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion on EMA Job description is regard to EMA running EMS calls for the county ambulance service. Johnson asked if there are mutual aid agreements with neighboring counties for EMA, Bernatz advised that there are. Kuhn asked if the commission is comfortable with Bernatz taking calls for the county owned ambulance service, Muetherthies stated it would just be like getting a second job. Hemann wonders if Bernatz is wearing too many hats with the importance of his jobs. Johnson recommended as long as job performance did not decrease, let Bernatz do it. Ashley expressed his feelings about Bernatz being EMA only and not allowing him to respond to ambulance calls. Hemann recommended revisiting this topic in a couple months.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ionia to go into closed session (21.5(1)(i)) at 2050.

Motion by Johnson, second by Hemann to come out of closed session.

No action taken out of closed session.

Motion by Geerts, second by Laures to adjourn at 2120. All ayes. Motion Carried

  
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Jeff Bernatz, Coordinator  
Chickasaw County Emergency Management