



May 23, 2024

Meeting called to order by Matt Kuhn at 6:00 pm

Commission members present: Randy Taylor, Matt Kuhn, Mark Mueterthies, James Mitchell, Amy Lares, and Deb Larsen

Absent: Jim Ashley, Samantha Johnson, David Geerts, and Ryan Shawver

Guests: Jeff Bernatz and Sheriton Dettmer

Motion by Mitchell, seconded by Larsen to approve the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Lares, seconded by Mueterthies to approve the February 21, 2024 Emergency Management Commission meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motioned by Mitchell, second by Taylor to approve EMA continuing education hours. All Ayes Motion Carried.

Bernatz gave an overview of the Full Scall Active Shooter Exercise performed at New Hampton High School.

Bernatz passed out an employee review for all to read. Bernatz advised the commission that the Auditor's office had requested the salary raise percentage for the upcoming year.

Motion by Mueterthies for a 3% salary increase. Discussion included Taylor speaking about how EMA and the Assessor's Office are separate from the county and don't necessarily have to align with what other county departments are doing. Lares discussed that it wasn't necessarily that they were following the other county departments as the motions included 6%, 4% and 3%. Larsen commented that for a person who is on call 24/7 and 6% would bring them close to the average she would go no less than 4%, but also recognized that there was already a motion on the floor. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Taylor, second by Larsen for a 6% salary increase. Ionia Aye, New Hampton Aye, Alta Vista Nay, Fredericksburg Nay, Lawler Nay, Supervisor Nay. Motion failed.

Motion by Larsen, second by Taylor for 4% salary increase. New Hampton Aye, Ionia Aye, Lawler Aye, Supervisors Nay, Fredericksburg Nay, Alta Vista Nay. Motion Failed.

Mueterthies requested ideas from the commission as to what percentage they would like to see, Kuhn advised that he was at 0%.

Motion by Mueterthies, second by Taylor for a 3% salary increase. Lawler Aye, Ionia Aye, New Hampton Aye, Supervisors Nay Fredericksburg Nay, Alta Vista Nay. Motion Failed.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Lares for a 2% salary increase. Fredericksburg Aye, Alta Vista Aye, Ionia Nay, Lawler Aye, New Hampton Nay, Supervisor Nay. Motion Failed

Taylor and Mueterthies expressed their concerns that an increase should not be below the cost of living.

Bernatz addressed the commission on how every year we come to this meeting and conduct an employee review and it feels like a firing squad that only talks about negative things, but never compliment positive accomplishments. Bernatz talked about some of the big projects that have been completed and how he does maintain the daily operations of the emergency management office. An employment milestone of 5 years has been reached and recognized by the State of Iowa and District 2, but not his own commission. Bernatz respects the calls and constructive criticism, but would also appreciate positive recognition.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Taylor for a 2.8% salary increase. Supervisor Aye, Ionia Aye, Lawler Aye, New Hampton Aye, Fredericksburg Aye, Alta Vista. Motion Carried.

Motioned by Taylor, second by Larsen to approve a budget amendment of \$25,000, bring grants across in the amount of \$7,900 and set public hearing for June 11, 2024 at 5:30pm. Taylor Aye, Kuhn Aye, Muetherthies Aye, Laures Aye, Larsen Aye, Mitchell Nay. Motion Carried.

Motion by Larsen, second by Mitchell to adjourn. All Ayes. Adjourned at 6:35pm


Jeff Bernatz, Coordinator
Chickasaw County Emergency Management