



February 18, 2026

Meeting called to order by Bernatz at 1815

Commission members present Steve Geerts, Ryan Shawver, Burt Ostert, Jim Ashley, Randy Taylor, Mark Mueterthies, Shelly Weiss, Jason Tenge, Jimmy Mitchell, Jacob Hackman.

Absent: None

Guests: Jeff Bernatz, Andy Chambers, David Laudner, Steve Breitbach, Jeremy McGrath, Sheila Shekleton

Motion by Shawver, seconded by Ostert to approve the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Shawver opened a discussion on future EMA funding including use of pooled cash, HSB 689, employee classification, and per capita. Bernatz passed out a per capita chart based on FY27 budget for cities to get an idea what it could look like next year.

Shawver presented job descriptions for EMA and 911 from 2018 and the need for updating. Bernatz advised that he has all ready started updating it and is merging EMA and 911 into one job description.

Laudner spoke with the county's HR attorney about Bernatz running on EMS and the attorney advised that it is not a good idea to do both. Laudner advised that this is probably not a practical thing for this county. HR attorney gave options including. #1 Bernatz is not allowed to run EMS when he is working for EMA during the work week, but could run and be paid during off times. #2 The commission can add EMS to the job description, but then Bernatz could not work EMS during off time and be paid because it is part of the job description. MEI will also need to be looked at for this. Mitchell talked about possibly separating EMA and 911. Taylor talked about any time over 40 hours in a week should be able to flex that time.


Motion by Ashley, second by Tenge for Shawver, Mitchell, Weiss, and Hackman to be on a committee to review the EMA/911 job descriptions. Ashley – Aye, Tenge – Aye, Geerts – Aye, Shawver – Aye, Ostert – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Mueterthies – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Mitchell – Aye, Hackman – Aye.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Hackman that Bernatz will not work for EMS until a decision is made with the job description. Mitchell – Aye, Hackman – Aye, Geerts – Aye, Shawver – Aye, Ostert – Aye, Ashley – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Mueterthies – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Tenge – Aye.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Shawver that Bernatz will not take any Medical Examiner Investigator calls until a decision is made with the job description. Mitchell – Aye, Shawver – Aye, Geerts – Aye, Ostert – Aye, Ashley – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Mueterthies – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Tenge – Aye, Hackman – Aye.

Next meeting will be May 27, 2026 at 6pm.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Shawver to adjourn at 1918. All Ayes

  
Jeff Bernatz, Coordinator  
Chickasaw County Emergency Management