

JASPER COUNTY
Emergency Management Commission

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Coordinator:
Jim Sparks

Minutes of January 22, 2015 Commission Meeting

The Jasper County Emergency Management Commission met on January 22, 2015 at the Jasper County EOC. Those present were Stephen Smith(Baxter), Dan Ritter(Baxter), Joe Brock (Board of Supervisors), Dick Reed (Colfax), Kevin Parson(Lambs Grove), Brian Briles (Monroe), Jarrod Wellik (Newton), Chad Alleger (Prairie City), Joel Steenhoek (Reasnor), Chad Fiske (Sully), Mike Vander Molen (Sully), John Halferty (Jasper County Sheriff), Kathy Ellis, EM assistant, and Jim Sparks, EM Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by the Sheriff, John Halferty, Roll call was taken. Those representatives listed above were present and accounted for.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Stephen Smith and was seconded by Kevin Parsons. Motion carried.

The December 11, 2014, meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made by Dick Reed and was seconded by Brian Briles. Motion carried.

Coordinators Update

- ICS Initiatives

The ICS initiatives were developed in conjunction with the Jasper County Fire Chiefs Association and EM Commission meetings. The initiatives were endorsed by the E911 Board and then adopted by the Commission one year ago. Sparks has been tracking how the communities are doing with their implementation. He presented his report today at the E911 Board meeting and distributed a copy to the commission. He stated some communities have done well and some are struggling but everyone has a few areas to work on.

Sheriff Halferty gave an example of an initiative; to take the mobile command unit, Truck #55, to all departments once per year to provide the opportunity for them to do a practical exercise to become familiar with the unit. Another initiative is the completion of the required ICS/NIMS courses of 100, 200, and 700 by all first responders. These courses are available online for free. If a department were to be audited, it would need to demonstrate being compliant with these courses.

Smith, Chair of the E911 Board, reinforced the fact that mayors are responsible for signing agreements, contracts, and grants, with FEMA. ICS / NIMS compliance is a requirement of receiving federal grant dollars for any community recovery or preparedness grants. The E911 Board has decided to exercise the option to hold back some of the funding available for communications equipment if communities have not met these initiatives as outlined. A letter will be forthcoming from the E911 Board asking communities / departments to put in their requests for funding of communications equipment. If communities have not completed the ICS courses and other initiatives, the funding may be withheld until they are completed.

Sparks concluded this action is not meant to be punitive but developed and agreed upon by all, as a means to hold each other accountable.

- Program Coordinator Update

Sparks explained the Program Coordinator will be an employee of the EM Commission working on the day to day operations of EMS (administrative, training staff, etc.) any free time available would provide the opportunity to work with fire and law enforcement in cases where there may be overlap of duties or common functions such as development of communications. Sparks is currently developing the job description for the position and will send out the draft to the commission once completed.

Sparks stated he would prefer to have a team decide the process and begin to draft the initial application, screening, and selection of the applicant. He will send emails requesting input and feedback on this process leaving the executive committee to make the final decision. The goal is to receive applications in April with the start date to be July 1, 2015.

- WENS

A demonstration on the new WENS system was conducted. One commission member was signed up in the process plus a sample one-time alert was sent out to the EM Commission members via phone and text message to demonstrate the ease of the system. It was requested of the mayors to provide a WENS contact to EMA. Sparks stated there are times when 911 may be down or overwhelmed and he wants each community to be able to take care of their citizens and know how to use the system. Communities will have total control over their information within WENS.

Feedback was given on how to promote WENS and spread the word about the change from CodeRED to WENS. Information will be forthcoming via email to the mayors and city clerks with addresses/links for Jasper County EMA's website, Facebook and twitter accounts plus the media release and logos available for use on community websites.

