

JASPER COUNTY
Emergency Management Commission

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Coordinator:
Jim Sparks

Minutes of May 13, 2021 Commission Meeting

The Jasper County Emergency Management Commission met on May 13, 2021 at the Jasper County EOC and via ZOOM conferencing. Those present were Genny Popenhagen (Baxter), David Mast (Colfax), Cathi Fouts (Lambs Grove) via ZOOM, Jen St. Peter (Monroe), Jarrod Wellik (Newton), Chad Alleger (Prairie City) via ZOOM, Dale James (Reasnor) via ZOOM, John Halferty (Jasper County Sheriff), Jim Sparks (EMA Coordinator), Josh Harding (EMA Program Coordinator), and Kathy Ellis (EMA Assistant).

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by EMA Coordinator, Jim Sparks.

Roll call was taken, and those representatives listed above were present in person or via ZOOM conferencing.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gennypher Popenhagen and was seconded by Jen St Peter. Motion carried

A motion to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes was made by David Mast and was seconded by Chad Alleger. Motion carried

Agenda Items

- 1. Equipment Inventory** A motion to approve the Jasper County EMA Equipment Disposition policy was made by Popenhagen and seconded by Mast.
- 2. By-Laws Revision** A motion to approve the By-Laws was made by St Peter and seconded by Alleger.
- 3. Public Hearing – 2021 Emergency Management Budget**
John Halferty took over the meeting from Sparks and a motion to open the public hearing for the budget amendment was made by St Peter and seconded by Popenhagen at 6:48PM. Motion carried

There was no one in attendance from the public. No discussion. Therefore, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Mast and seconded by Alleger.

Motion carried

Sparks explained revenue was up due EMPG, Jasper Community Foundation Grant/Jasper County Law Enforcement Departments' pass through for the MILO project, and increased tax revenue due to the annual year-end adjustments.

Under expenditures, personnel operations are under budget at 98 percent. The amendment for capital expenditures is due to carryover projects from FY20 sidelined with COVID such as the Rescue Trailer, Truck #55, HazMat Bottles, Generator Project, Incident Support Trailer, and EMPG Supplemental. Not on the radar, a new project upgrading to a new drone with more capabilities.

The EMPG Supplemental grant is providing for the new website, PAPRs, and Incident Support Trailer purchase along with the equipment needs. The bottom line is the purchases are not affecting actual FY21 fund balance which will be higher than projected.

A motion to approve the budget amendment was made by Alleger and seconded by James. Motion carried

New Business

- 1. Update Alternate Commission Members** A request was made for the mayors to review their Elected Alternate and Public Safety Alternate listed on the sign in sheet. Please email the EMA office with the new alternates' names/contact information.
- 2. Mitigation Plan** The process to updating the County Hazard Mitigation Plan will begin with the Goal Setting meeting. City Clerks, Mayors, School Superintendents, and County Representatives will be emailed a survey to determine a date in August. All entities are required to participate in meetings and complete the documents to be eligible for future funding through FEMA. Sparks requested the mayors provide their representatives to the meetings have the authority to speak on behalf of their community.
- 3. Coordinator Update**
 - Generator Project: Lynnville/Monroe/Mingo/Prairie City have all expressed interest in being able to use available generator to provide a community shelter / meeting place to their residents. The project is scheduled to be complete mid-summer.
 - Trailer Projects: Thanks to the Sheriff for the pad at the Sheriff's Office for all the County trailers in one place ready for deployment.
 - 911 Board and Dispatch Supervisor, Brad Shutts, approved a backup console to be located in the EOC to provide an alternate location for Dispatch and to provide EOC – Incident Command direct communications
 - Debris Management Plan will be working on with Jody Rhone to address items learned from the Derecho
 - Alert Iowa (State) is changing its vendor from WENS to RAVE. The process of transferring over individual and group data is difficult. The state's request will be to have individuals re-sign up in the new

system. There will be Public Safety Day at the County Fair along with other promotions to get the word out to County residents.

Sparks referenced the 'County wide EMS Support Document' sent to the Commission that provided an overview of the Status of EMS in Jasper County to initiate discussion on the following key points.

- In discussion with the County Communications/Dispatch Supervisor, it is estimated that at least once a week there is a 911 call for an ambulance and the community does not have available staff to respond. This results in calling an ambulance from another community and makes for very long response times to potential life-threatening situations and leaving their own community without coverage.
- It was noted the County EMS Association has attempted to address this issue related to staffing, which is a tremendous responsibility for the directors without the necessary authority to make significant changes.
- It was stressed that the ultimate responsibility for EMS in their community was with Mayors. It was also noted that as a Commission they had responsibility and authority under the code to address this on a county wide basis. The Sheriff recommended the elected officials establish a good line of communication with their fire / EMS departments regarding response issues, times, how recruiting is going, etc.
- Sheriff Halferty indicated that he has had discussions with the Board regarding the expansion of the Sheriff's Office current status as non-transport BLS service to a transport ALS service as one option to address the daytime shortage of responders
- EMA is asking for authorization from the Commission to begin to address exploring initiatives/solutions/strategies to support EMS in Jasper County. Major policy decisions or financial commitment would be brought before the Commission for approval.
- A motion was made by Alleger and seconded by Popenhagen to authorize the EMA to pursue some options/solutions to improve the availability of EMS services within the County. Motion Carried – unanimous..

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:38PM by Cathi Fouts and seconded by Popenhagen.

Motion carried