

JASPER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1030 W 2nd ST S Newton, Iowa 50208

(W) 641-792-7555

www.jasperema-hls.org



Minutes of December 17, 2024, Commission Meeting

The Jasper County Emergency Management Commission met on December 17, 2024, at the Armory Annex in the EOC and via ZOOM. Those present were Doug Bishop (Baxter) via ZOOM, Brandon Talsma (Board of Supervisors), David Mast (Colfax), Matt Perry (Kellogg) via ZOOM, Pat Edwards (Lambs Grove), Butch Umble, Council person (Monroe) via ZOOM, Evelyn George (Newton), Rex Heisdorffer (NFD), Chad Alleger (Prairie City) via ZOOM, John Halferty (Jasper County Sheriff), Brad Shutts (Sheriff Elect), Jamey Robinson (EMA Coordinator), and Kathy Ellis (Program Manager).

The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM by the Sheriff, John Halferty.

Roll call was taken. Those representatives listed above were present in-person or via ZOOM and accounted for.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Brandon Talsma and was seconded by Pat Edwards. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the January 30, 2024, meeting minutes was made by David Mast and was seconded by Matt Perry. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

- **Public Hearing - 2025 Emergency Management Budget Amendment**

Robinson stated this amendment is due to the increase in grants funds they have been successful in obtaining over the last year. This amendment will need to be done to keep things balanced.

A motion was made by Talsma and seconded by Mast to open the public hearing on the budget at 6:06PM. Motion carried.

There was no one in attendance from the public and received no written correspondence.

A motion was made to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular Commission meeting at 6:07PM by Evelyn George and seconded by Talsma. Motion carried.

- **2025 Emergency Management Budget Amendment Adoption**

A motion to adopt the budget amendment was made by Doug Bishop and seconded by Talsma. Motion carried.

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Budget Workshop FY 26

Jamey Robinson reviewed the following items regarding the FY 26 Budget:

- Success in securing additional funds for the Advance Cardiac Monitor and Security Items for the Speedway.
- Overall changes to the budget not huge. Request moving Kathy Ellis from part time to fulltime.
- Increase Hazmat line funding for multi-threat suits from one time use shelf life of 5 years(testing required) to 10 years with no testing.
- Increase in motor vehicle usage (gas/maintenance) due to more driving to meetings.
- Capital Expenditures for EOC upgrades to provide more capabilities plus a UTV.
- Overall increase in the EMA levy needs consideration due to tapping reserves. Consider an increase of four cents. (reference handout for history of the levy)
- 3% Target for COLA increase to be considered.

Baxter mayor, Doug Bishop, expressed his appreciation for Robinson's incredible work with FEMA this past year. He stated you need to pay for good help and wanted to increase his pay 5-6% to keep him moving upwards.

A motion was made by Bishop to move the EMA Director's salary increase to 5% and seconded by Perry. Motion carried.

Discussion to support the Program Manager moving from part time to fulltime was favorable.

A motion to extend the 5% increase to both the Deputy Director, Steve Ashing, and the Program Manager, Kathy Ellis was made by Talsma and seconded by Mast.

Motion carried.

A motion to increase the EMA Levy by four cents was moved by Chad Allegger and seconded by Bishop. Motion carried.

Elections of Officers

A motion for Sheriff Elect, Brad Shutts, to become the Chairman was made by Talsma and seconded by Mast. Motion carried.

A motion for Doug Bishop to become the Vice Chairman was made by Talsma and seconded by George. Motion carried.

Program Update

Robinson provided the following points:

- HSGP \$215,433 to focus on public safety with two speed trailers/plate readers for the Iowa Speedway and available to the local communities.

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- Big DOT Signs with cameras for speed levels may be available for construction projects.
 - The HSGP grant has opened up and will submit the NOI to apply again.
 - Prairie Meadows Grant applied for a new Cardiac Monitor.
 - Donations of \$10,000 from Grinnell Mutual Foundation & Shomo-Madsen Insurance for electric fire blankets distributed to communities along I-80.
 - Iowa Propane Association interested in funding a Propane Flair Kit \$30,000.
 - Held first annual EMS Impact Conference with the cost of \$2,700 covered by donations.
 - 64 attendees; local first responders were provided 16 Hours of Continuing Education for free.
 - Recognized Sheriff John Halferty as the first awardee for his service.
 - Date scheduled for the second annual conference January 10-11, 2026.
 - Steve Ashing continues to work the EMS affiliation agreement/Countywide training.
 - BOS provided \$8,000 for this training to 10 County employees.
 - No interest locally in the 'Foam Trailer' under capital expenses, therefore the funds will be used for EMS.
 - CPR class will be held February 15, 2025 as the first of quarterly classes provided locally at no cost to the participant, unless they want a certification card. Then it is just the cost of the card. in the past year, 278 people have been trained.
 - FEMA: On the Individual Assistance side, the disaster totalled \$1.5 million not including the Public Assistance portion.
 - Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, provided assistance to the Salvation Army with their Thanksgiving meal.
 - Extended a huge thank you to Sheriff John Halferty for his 12 years of service to the Emergency Management Commission as Chair.
 - In future, will be meeting with Mitchellville to hold a seat on the commission as it is has properties in Jasper County proper.
 - February 10, 2025 from 8:30-11:30AM at DMACC Business Continuity Training provided by Safeguard Iowa.

Sheriff John Halferty highlighted the following items from his tenure:

- Importance of the EMS Impact Conference for local first responders.
- Disaster Task Force Group started by Jim Sparks and continued by Robinson.
 - Several Counties combine resources to assist each other during major events as one, it began with the tornado at Vermeer.

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- Surplus generators acquired for free were distributed within the County for backup power during emergencies. The Sheriff's office has transferred their ownership to EMA. Ashing serviced them during this year to be ready for use.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in the EOC.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:44PM by Talsma and seconded by Alleger.

Motion carried.