



## Marshall County Emergency Management Agency

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Kim Elder, Coordinator

**The Marshall County Emergency Management Commission will met April 10, 2025 (Thursday) at 5:57 p.m (following the 911 Board meeting) at 2369 Jessup Avenue, EOC/Training Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Marshalltown Iowa 50158 with 7 members present.**

### **MINUTES LEMS MEETING:**

Call to Order by Chair Phillips at 5:57 p.m.

Present were: Maria Thoms, Marion Township; Caitlyn Reineke, MCCC; Evan Folk, Laurel; Dale and Glenda Thompson, Ferguson; Phil Summers, Gilman; Jodi Abrahams, LeGrand; Cynthia Mansager, Melbourne; Kevin Goodman, BOS; Maddie Welton, Haverhill; Kim Elder, EMA; Joel Phillips, SO; Rhonda Braudis, 911/MCCC.

Approval of the agenda for the April 10, 2025 meeting – Motion to approve as presented by Folk, seconded by Mansager. All in favor. Motion passes.

Approval of minutes for January 2, 2025 meeting – Motion to approve as written by Mansager, seconded by Abrahams. All in favor. Motion passes.

Welcome New Commission Members – Elder presented all members with a new EMA informational packet.

Old Business -EMS Essential Services was discussed by Elder and Phillips. Answered questions about what it means, who is on the taskforce group and what the plans are to this point. The Board of Health/EMS Grant is nearing end. Elder is working with public health to complete the grant with training dollars being awarded to 8 EMS departments in the county. The EMS conference was held in Marshall County in March and was a great day of classes for our EMS providers. EMS conference may merge with another county next time due to low attendance. Emergency Management Support Specialist job description – hiring timeline is July 1 if we can get the job posted soon and interviews

done in June. Elder sent out an updated job description to all members. A hiring committee will be formed in May. EMA requirements are only increasing and there is not enough time in the week to accomplish all that is required. There are many unfunded mandates from the federal and state levels for the county EMA. Elder is working hard to stay on top of things, but an assistant will improve the office and what the commission is required to have in place. The state has not passed the 29C cleanup bill or addressed any of the levy changes for funding EM. Marshall County EM Commission has been waiting for any changes before moving ahead with any budget revenue stream changes. Marshall County must move forward as the EM budget is nearing the end of the use of carry-over funds.

New Business - Hazard Mitigation Plan is due to be renewed/updated in 2027. The process is starting now with the application to the HMPG grant to fund 75% through the federal grant, 10% from the state and 15% local responsibility. Elder has just received more information on the contractors that the state received, and she is reviewing and will present the information to the county board of supervisors. The BOS has, in the past, been the funding mechanism for the 15% local portion of the update to the plan. Elder send out an e-mail to all members asking for a list of critical infrastructure last month. This is to assist in updating the hazard mitigation plan. New/Updated plans – Elder has been updating and writing many plans. The damage assessment, donations management, and volunteer management plans are at the review stage and will be sent out to members to review in the next few weeks. Exercises that were attended or produced by Marshall County EMA – Completed: State, IVH, IPAWS, District 1 (well attended locally), MC stakeholder, DOT, IDHRC, Exercise/Game creation with ISU, board game exercise PH/State Scheduled: UPH hazmat exercise in June. These are all requirements of local EM. Education updates – required NQS is still on hold, Elder is completing all the required education for state and federal grants and mandates and more. The National Qualification System is a newer standard and takes some time to fill out. The hopes are EM will be able to get all these completed after an assistant is hired. Training and Exercise requirements are increasing rapidly, Elder always attends as many trainings and exercises as possible, as they are important for partnership formation and advancing capabilities. Orion damage assessment application/tool is relatively new and Elder attended the training. She is impressed with the capabilities of this system and is going to start training the CERT team on the use. Unfunded mandates/Duties of EMA increases are soaring, and these have caused some things to be set aside while others are completed. Hiring will allow more to be completed. Budget discussion and possible action was discussed. Elder shared a letter to the commission containing information about the budget (attached) and how it will be soon into a shortfall if action to increase the revenue for local emergency management does not happen soon. She proposed two options that are both allowable under the 29C of Iowa Code. The current commission member assessments would have to increase dramatically to cover the current approved budget. If the assessment were updated to current per capita (which has not been fully reviewed since Elder has been in the office-20 years) the per capita would be \$7.732 per capita. Welton asked Elder to send out the possible per capita figures to the commission. Elder will do that next week. Emergency Management Levy discussion and possible action - The second option would be to fund the EM Commission through the EM levy

(in 29c). This would be very similar to the MCCC levy. The levy provides transparency to all taxpayers. This would be run through the county budget under General Basic or General Supplement portions. Elder shared information from Wapello County EM who is very similar in county size (population) and budget requirements. Elder offered to share more of this information at the next meeting if anyone would like to see it. Either decision needs to be made before the next budget cycle, so discussion at the July meeting would be necessary to work in the direction of the commission for the next 2027 budget cycle.

Other Business – nothing further. Elder will send out all attachments share today with the minutes.

Public Forum- No public comment.

Adjournment- There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting is adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Next meeting: July 10, 2025 6 p.m.