



Woodbury County Emergency Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

6-26-2019

7:30 pm

Woodbury County Emergency Services

121 Deer Run Trail

Climbing Hill, IA

Commission Attendees: Board of Supervisor's Rocky DeWitt (Vice Chair), Major Todd Wieck of the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office, Bronson Mayor Tony Thompson, Correctionville Mayor Nathan Heilman, Danbury Mayor Michael Buth, Hornick Mayor Scott Mitchell, Lawton Mayor Dale Erickson, Merville Mayor Jim Fisher, and Smithland Mayor Pro Tem Dianne McTeer.

Also present: Emergency Management Coordinator Rebecca Socknat.

Not Present: Anthon, Cushing, Oto, Pierson, Salix, Sergeant Bluff, Sloan, and Sioux City

Supervisor Rocky DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm

Motion by Mayor Thompson, seconded by Mayor Mitchell to approve the agenda for June 26, 2019. All in favor.

Supervisor DeWitt called for approval of January 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion by Mayor Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Fisher to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Rebecca began with an update from Emergency Management. She began with a budget update stating there is about \$1500 of carryover from FY2019. Rebecca then mentioned ordering and receiving the four control computers. She explained the process of WITCC IT programming the computers and then Kingsbury Electric connecting the computers to the Matrix system. Three of the four will be in the EOC and one will be in the interop lab. These replace the four touch screen computers that have been in the EOC since inception.

She then discussed the upcoming Hazmat exercise sponsored by the LEPC. Originally Stable Mercury 3 was going to count as this, but during the last planning meeting the private business



does not want responders at their location. Due to this, Sgt. Bluff volunteered to host this on July 25th. September 18th will be the Stable Mercury 3 exercise with local, state, and federal organizations. The response portion will be table topped in a classroom at The Security Institute and the EOC portion will be a functional.

Rebecca then started the discussion on the federal disaster from March 2019. Rocky has the certification form to ensure the county plans are current. This is a requirement after every presidentially declared disaster. Rebecca discussed that FEMA representatives should have contacted each jurisdiction who applied for Public Assistance. If they have not or there are issues, be sure to keep in contact with Rebecca.

Mayor Mitchell asked to speak. He voiced that any jurisdiction who had damages, need to apply for assistance. It is key, especially in the future for future mitigation projects. He even offered to help those that need assistance. It is vital that Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management has a record of damages, whether the jurisdiction continues with the Public Assistance process. The PA process runs a lot smoother than the IA as the IAHEM appointed Leon Freeman to assist.

Rebecca explained that 10% of the amount of damages throughout the entire state goes to hazard mitigation projects. She put it into perspective that Woodbury's share of the project to rewrite the hazard mitigation plan was \$6000. With a current plan, during a federally declared disaster Federal pays 75%, State pays 10%, leaving the local match 15%. Rebecca explained this is for any mitigation project, not just those relating to flooding. The Public Assistance deadline has been extended to July 21, 2019. The PA process can be difficult, but it depends on the FEMA personnel assigned to your jurisdiction. So again, if there are any issues let Rebecca know.

Mayor Mitchell took the floor on how extraordinary Rebecca and Woodbury's Emergency Management is. He noted Fremont County as four full-time personnel in Emergency Management. Mayor Mitchell stated that Rebecca answered the phone at all hours of the night and there were some nights she left Hornick at 2:30 am and was back at 6:30 am. The way the disaster happened in March in an expedited fashion was Rebecca pushing everyone to get their estimated numbers in. This was the first disaster presidentially declared while a disaster was still going on.

Mitchell continued, Rebecca is very valuable. He does not want to see Rebecca leave Woodbury County as through this disaster he believes she can write her future. Rebecca was always two days ahead of everyone. While Hornick was still talking about getting water out of Hornick, Rebecca was planning for the recovery process of the public assistance and working on getting people from the state here for every jurisdiction in Woodbury. Mitchell also mentioned



the Commission needs to get Rebecca more training on the Individual Assistance portion and no one in the state knows much about this process. It's unreal the resources Rebecca can get for the jurisdictions. Mitchell stated we have a great county, including the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services, and the Board of Supervisors. Gary and Rebecca will tell you what you need to hear and not what you want to hear. That is something you need during a disaster.

Rebecca offered to come to any jurisdiction to assist with any part of the recovery process. It does not have to be during the day, it could be an evening or weekend if it works better. She mentioned the best way to get a hold of her is the cell phone as she cannot guarantee she is in her office.

Mayor Mitchell brought up procurement policies. He said Sgt. Bluff and the County have great policies along with attachments and each community can pick out what works for them. Rebecca mentioned the policies were shared with some clerks after Correctionville organized a meeting in which Rebecca was invited to give each of them an update.

The Commission began discussions on the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Supervisor DeWitt nominated Mayor Mitchell to serve as the Chair. Mayor Mitchell expressed it needs to be the Sheriff because EMA and Sheriff have a great relationship and have a county-wide perspective. The Sheriff is the best person to help facilitate EMA. Motion by Supervisor DeWitt and seconded by Mayor Mitchell for Sheriff Drew to continue in the position of Chair. The Commission moved onto nominations for Vice-Chair. Major Wieck made a motion for Supervisor DeWitt to remain Vice. Second by Mayor Mitchell. All in favor, except DeWitt who abstained.

Following the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair the executive committee was appointed. Rebecca explain the executive committee is an additional three Commission members who Rebecca goes to when a full Commission meeting cannot meet. The executive committee also serves as the hiring and interview board. Mayor Mitchell, Mayor Winkel, and Dave Amick were voted to remain the executive committee. Motion by Supervisor DeWitt and seconded by Mayor Fisher. All in favor.

New business discussion – Rebecca asked that Supervisor DeWitt sign the form to certify that 10% of the County's Emergency Operation Plan has been updated. This is a requirement for the EMPG grant.

Rebecca mentioned there may be some issues as the county Hazard Mitigation Plan is expiring the end of September. SIMPCO was hired to complete this and estimated completion is February 2020. Any hazard mitigation projects will go into a "queue" until our plan is certified.



If anyone at the state has any issues with mitigation projects, let Rebecca know immediately. Danbury already faced an issue with this, and it was worked through.

Rebecca also shared with the Commission she was asked by Joyce Flinn, Director of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management to serve on the Governor's Economic Development Flood Recovery Working Group. As part of this working group, Rebecca will be representing Emergency Managers for the counties along the Missouri River who had the greatest impacts from the disaster. This group includes conference calls and meetings within the affected counties.

Old business discussion – None

Public concerns and input - none

Commission concerns and input – Supervisor DeWitt shared how proud he is to live in Woodbury County with agencies like the Woodbury County Sheriff's Office and the EMA Commission. Speaking as a resident, not as a board member, he is so proud to live here with the good people.

Mayor Mitchell added that the Sheriff helped during the evacuation and the WCSO manned Hornick for several weeks 24 hours a day, and the county engineer who provided support throughout the event as well.

Rebecca also mentioned how grateful she is to have the support of each of the jurisdictions and the Commission.

Motion by Mayor Mitchell and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McTeer to adjourn at 8:01 pm. All in favor.