

**Kossuth County Emergency Management Commission**  
**219 S. Phillip Street**  
**Algona, IA 50511**

The Kossuth County Emergency Management Commission meeting was held Tuesday July 23, 2024 at the Kossuth County Emergency Response & Training Complex 219 S. Phillips St in Algona.

Members present: Rick Murphy, Algona City Mayor; Richard Richter, Burt City Council (Alternate); Deb Steven, Lakota City Council (Alternate); Kevin McPeak, Lu Verne City Mayor; Craig Larson, Wesley City Mayor; Kimberly Johnson, West Bend City Mayor; Dan Elbert, Whittemore City Mayor; Roger Fisher, Kossuth County Sheriff; and Josh Waechter, Board of Supervisors.

Members absent: Tom Johnson, Bancroft City Mayor; Gene Miller, Fenton City Mayor; Sharon Cowin, Ledyard City Mayor; Letty Henricksen, Lone Rock City Mayor; Wendy Zielske, Swea City, City Mayor; David LaGue, Titonka City Mayor.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Rick Murphy, at 6:02 p.m.

A quorum was established with 9 members in attendance.

A motion to approve minutes from April 23, 2024, meeting was made by Kevin McPeak with a second by Craig Larson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kevin McPeak to approve the July 23, 2024, agenda with a second by Josh Waechter. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

29c Update- Charissa reported IEMA will be starting over with the 29c bill, this will reflect what the Commission is currently composed of and including the tax levy. IEMA will also be including the tax levy portion into the new tax reform that will be going through legislation this year. Charissa will keep the Commission up to date on this bill.

HMGP Update- The HMP has been forwarded to FEMA and is awaiting FEMA approval. As a reminder if you have not done so yet, your community will need to make a resolution to adopt the plan.

HSGP wrap up- The HSGP grant will be complete as of July 31, 2024. We now have the capability to stream up to four drones to 10 users allowing for optimal situational awareness.

EMPG- State is still waiting for Federal funding, so there will only be 3 reporting periods. EMPG will shift again with no funding from April through July due to the realignment. ESF plans will be

due now June 2025.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget- As discussed in April the BOS originally was going to cut the county contribution 50% but ended up cutting the contribution by 75% without the Commission 's knowledge and does not reflect what the Commission approved at the budget hearing. July 9, the BOS approved giving the library their funds back, and approved giving funds back to the fairgrounds, as well as approving 2% raises for employees. Discussion was had amongst members with a motion to appeal the county contribution cut of 75% and place this item on BOS Agenda by Deb Steven with a second by Craig Larson. Motion Passed. Rick will talk with Todd Holmes as well.

Per Capita- Since the 29c bill did not get passed this legislative cycle, Charissa discussed with the Commission the Per Capita. She asked the Commission if they want to continue the Per Capita at it \$0.75 rate or increase the rate. She informed them the calculation that was being used in previous years is not the correct way to calculate. Hearing no motion this will be revisited at the October budget meeting.

Lease Agreement complex building- Rick & Charissa attended the workshop with BOS/EMS/E-911 today regarding the training complex lease. This is still a working progress.

Weather/FEMA/Equipment-It's been a rainy Spring/Summer to say the least. May 3, flash flood Algona & Whittemore requiring allocation of the State's 4 in trash pumps in Algona; and EMA's 3-4 in pumps in both Algona & Whittemore. Again, May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> flash flooding in Algona & Wesley- May 31<sup>st</sup> Swea City Flas Flooding; June 4<sup>th</sup> Algona flash flooding, then June 21-23<sup>rd</sup> East Fork Flooding mainly roads; June 22<sup>nd</sup> went to Emmet County to help with their response efforts; June 24-june 28<sup>th</sup>- Humboldt EOC and Bradgate drone image for Corp of Engineers; sandbagging, Animal rescue equipment.

PDA- (Preliminary Damage Assessments) See handout.

Individual Assistance- This was opened up for the May events for Kossuth County. Charissa is unaware if anyone qualified as the individual fills out an application to HSEMD.

Public Assistance Multi Event- Charissa informed the group that the county had to meet the threshold in order to be considered in a disaster declaration. Kossuth County's threshold is \$68, 208.80. DR4784 May 21-31<sup>st</sup> Charissa has been working with the communities affected to ensure they get RFA into EMGrants Pro. Next Steps will be a FEMA call.

DR 4796 June 16, 2024 and continuing- as of yet Kossuth has not qualified.

Review/Approve ESF's: Basic Plan, ESF 5, ESF 15, and RSF: Basic Plan was reviewed with the Commission with the changes and additions as well as a new RSF Basic Plan. A motion was made by Kevin McPeak with a second from Deb Steven to approve all the plans. Motion carried.

Rick Murphy, Chairperson, signed the Commission Plan Adoption document and Charissa will file the document with HSEMD.

Approve EMA Continue Education hours- Charissa reviewed the educational hours she has completed and that she has met the state requirements. Rick Murphy, Chairperson, signed the 24-hour annual training document and Charissa will submit it to HSEMD training team.

EMA Vacation hours – Charissa reports she has 128 hours of vacation and is able to carry over only 40 hours. Charissa reported she had vacation lined up but with the flooding events that happened starting in May and with the most recent in June she could not leave those that were covering Kossuth and dealing with their own county disaster. She stayed and helped Emmet and Humboldt as well as issues within the county. She is asking the Commission to carry over another 40 hours of vacation in addition to the 40 hours that are allowed to be carried. Discussion amongst the Commission with a motion from Deb Steven to grant the additional 40 hour vacation time to be used by October 1, 2024 with a second from Craig Larson. Motion was carried.

Trainings-

**The Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin McPeak with a second from Deb Steven. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**\*\*Voting and Quorum.** Every member of the Commission shall be entitled to (1) one vote. A quorum shall be determined to be eight (8) attending voting members. **\*\***