



Clinton County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | 6:00 PM
Clinton County Satellite Office and Zoom Meeting
226 11th St, DeWitt, Iowa

Attendees:

- Board of Supervisors: Erin George
- City of Calamus: Mayor Lance Goettsch
- City of Charlotte: Councilperson Kelly Hosette
- City of Clinton: Mayor Scott Maddasion
- City of DeWitt: Mayor Steve Hasenmiller
- City of Goose Lake: Mayor Ken Schoon
- City of Grand Mound: Mayor Kurt Crosthwaite
- City of Lost Nation: Mayor Ramon Gilroy
- City of Welton: Mayor Jon Marlowe
- City of Wheatland: Councilperson Paul Stankee
- Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Bill Greenwalt
- Clinton County Human Resources: Ally Weller
- Emergency Management:
 - Coordinator, Chance Kness
 - Plans Officer, Nancy Burns
 - Operations Officer, Andrew Smith

Absent:

City of Andover
City of Camanche
City of Delmar
City of Low Moor
City of Toronto

Media: None
Public: None

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1. Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Hasenmiller. Roll call attendance was completed.
 2. Approval of previous meeting minutes – July 10, 2024 – A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented was made by Councilperson Stankee and seconded by Mayor Maddasion. Motion passed with all ayes.
 3. General Public - This is the time that the public can address the Commission. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per individual. – No comments from the public.
 4. Discussion and Possible Action – Hours worked calculation for non-exempt employees.
 - a. HR Director Ally Weller explained the hours worked calculations and that Kness is requesting that the non-exempt employee in EMA be given Personal Days and Vacation Days counting towards the hours worked calculation. Weller also explained that she had a follow up from the last meeting on a question of Iowa code and what was required for

compensatory time. She investigated this and found the code referenced was from the Iowa Administrative rules which are only applicable to State employees. Those do not apply to us, but we are under the Fair Labor Standards Act which does require that we pay employees straight time up to 40 hours and any work over 40 hours is paid at time and a half. These are only hours actually worked. Weller explained the current policy for the county and stated that Vacation and Personal Days do not count as Hours Worked regarding calculating overtime. Extensive discussion ensued of when this would occur and why the county has this policy and the reasons that Maintenance and Secondary Roads have an exception to this policy. Kness explained that he believed the EMA response to Disasters and Emergencies was the same as the Maintenance and Secondary Roads response to snow events. Kness further explained that although the EMA employee in question has flex time, this does not mean there is an ability to flex after an emergency. Just like for those other entities, emergencies are "all hands on deck events". Upon being asked for her recommendation, Weller explained that her recommendation is to not approve this change.

b. A motion was made by Mayor Crosthwaite and seconded by Mayor Schoon to approve the EMA to use the Hours Worked Policy that is in place for Maintenance. Motion failed by a vote of 6 to 5 with roll call vote.

- City of Andover – Absent
- City of Calamus - No
- City of Camanche – Absent
- City of Charlotte - No
- City of Clinton – No
- City of Delmar – Absent
- City of DeWitt – Yes
- City of Goose Lake – Yes
- City of Grand Mound – Yes
- City of Lost Nation - No
- City of Low Moor – Absent
- City of Toronto - Absent
- City of Welton – Yes
- City of Wheatland – Yes
- Board of Supervisors – No
- Sheriff's Office – No

5. Discussion and Possible Action – Outdoor Warning Sirens.

a. Review of city decisions

- i. Kness explained that many meetings have been held throughout the county regarding the sirens. A document showing the current status of the votes throughout the county was given to the Commission. Currently the votes show that 29 out of the 36 sirens in the county will no longer be maintained and used. That leaves 7 sirens. 6 are from the City of Clinton and 1 from the City of Camanche. The City of Camanche has voted to not accept the Exelon sirens but are still exploring having their own siren system.
- ii. Mayor Maddasion stated that the City of Clinton has not yet made a decision on whether to accept the 6 Constellation sirens but would like to maintain the current siren system as it is currently operating and still use them for weather and radiological emergencies. Clinton will be going out for an RFP to determine whether the (current) sirens are in the proper location or whether they could be in a different location before the City makes a final decision. They are also going

to be talking with Camanche about the possibility of working together on a system.

b. Decommissioning Procedure

- i. The first part of the decommissioning discussion has to do with the 18 County owned sirens. This EM Commission during the discussion decided to go ahead with ending the use of the Outdoor Warning Sirens for the 18 Commission owned sirens on December 31, 2024.
- ii. In reference to the Constellation owned sirens in Clinton County, the request from the City of Clinton is to continue to operate them status quo. Use of the siren in Camanche is not fully decided. The Commission needs to decide on the continuing use of the 9 Constellation sirens in unincorporated parts of the county. Kness worked with the Constellation siren vendor and was able to have them do some reprogramming to have the 6 sirens in Clinton be able to be operated independently from the other 9 sirens so the 6 could still be used for severe weather. All (16) the Constellation sirens would still be required to be tested monthly and used for radiological emergencies. The EM Commission discussed the options and feel that they want to stay with their previous vote of shutting down the 9 Constellation owned sirens (unincorporated areas) for the purpose of severe weather.
- iii. Kness asked how the Commission would like the decisions about discontinuing the use of 9 Constellation owned sirens for weather and continuing use of the 6 in Clinton and possibly the one in Camanche be communicated to Communications, who are the ones setting off the sirens. Councilperson Hosette made a motion and Councilperson Stankee seconded for Kness to outline the recommendation of the EM Commission on these changes and send it to the Communications Commission for their approval to update the siren SOP for Communications to reflect these changes. Motion passes with all ayes. EMA will also work on media releases to inform the public.

c. Cancelling the MOUs

- i. The cities with Commission owned sirens had previously signed MOUs to provide power to those sirens. Those MOUs will need to be cancelled. Kness explained that power must be maintained until the sirens are taken down, but Kness needs to give each city 90 days notice that the MOU will end when the siren comes down. He will send emails to each city affected as notice of ending the MOU.

d. Approval to issue an RFP

- i. Kness explained the RFP draft that was given to the Commission in regard to issuing an RFP for the removal of the sirens. Kness explained that this and the following bullet points are intertwined. Kness did explain that it is possible for the RFP to be issued and then this Commission could look at the proposals during their January and February meetings to be more informed of the costs and scope before making a final determination since the value of the sirens and the costs of removal are unknown at this time.
- ii. Motion to issue the RFP was made by Mayor Maddasion and seconded by Councilperson Stankee. Kness was directed to bring the proposals received along with the approval to sell, method to sell, and the question of where to store back to the Commission in January for final approval.


e. Approval to sell

- i. Kness stated that he would need approval to sell the sirens if that is what the Commission determines. Supervisor George asked Mayor Maddasion if the City

of Clinton would be interested in purchasing any of the sirens or spare parts. Mayor Maddasion stated that they were "not interested in buying anymore sirens".

- f. Approval of method to sell
 - i. Kness explained there was some discussion on the Executive Committee that maybe GovDeals could be used but value of the sirens needs to be identified first.
 - g. Where to store sirens
 - i. Kness stated that if we do have them taken down, we would need a place to store them on pallets until sold. This would be if the entities removing the sirens don't take them.
 - h. Request procedure.
 - i. Kness explained that this item will be tabled since no one here at the meeting has expressed any interest in requesting any of the sirens or parts.
6. Discussion and Possible Action – Weather Radio Program plan update and approval for continuation.
- a. Smith explained the EMA spearheaded a program to provide weather radios to Clinton County residents. With Executive Committee approval we placed an initial order for 100 radios in September. Over the course of 3 Public Outreach events, we distributed all 100 radios. In order to receive a radio, each person was asked to fill out a Family Emergency Plan in order to prompt them to start thinking about preparedness and once they showed the plan to us, they received a radio which we had Midland pre-program for Clinton County and had all of the optional alerts turned off. The radios went over extremely well with the public and we have since (with Executive Committee approval) ordered 100 more radios. We are developing a plan to utilize libraries and specific outreach events in the communities in other parts of the county in order to reach more of our residents. We are asking for permission to continue this program and for direction in how many radios to purchase. Discussion ensued about how the program works and feedback we have gotten.
 - b. Sheriff Greenwalt made a motion and Councilperson Hosette seconded to purchase up to 300 total radios for now (100 more) and to continue the program and then bring it up for an update and future decision at the February Commission meeting and to continue the procedures and plans currently in place. Motion passes with all ayes.
7. Discussion and Possible Action – Use of Constellation Funding
- a. Reimbursement to agencies participating in REP functions
 - i. Kness explained that for many years we have reimbursed agencies for REP Emergency Worker training at the rate of \$15.00 per hour (reimbursed by Constellation/ Exelon). Agencies include Fire Departments, Public Works, Bus Transportation agencies, and Law Enforcement. Extensive discussion ensued over what agencies have been reimbursed, volunteer vs. paid agencies, the types of trainings reimbursed for, the future of the Reception Center and agencies that participate there. Mayor Gilroy made a motion and Mayor Goettsch seconded that we keep the reimbursement program the same. The motion failed with no ayes.
 - ii. More discussion followed and it was decided that the Commission would like more information on this program including the numbers and costs, agencies paid, etc. This will be brought back to the Commission at a later meeting.
 - b. Contract assistance with REP planning

- i. Kness explained that he is asking if he can use the increase in Constellation funding to put out an RFP to contract for assistance with REP plans updating and review.
 - ii. Supervisor George made a motion and Councilperson Stankee seconded for Kness to issue an RFP for contract assistance with REP plans. Motion passes with all ayes.
 - c. REP supplies and equipment
 - i. Kness just wanted to inform the Commission that part of the Constellation funding will be spent on REP specific supplies and equipment.
- 8. January and February Meetings
 - a. The EM Commission upcoming budget meetings are scheduled for January 15 and February 19.
 - b. Kness explained that he wants to publish the budget before the January meeting so that if a meeting gets cancelled for the weather, we will still be able to hold a budget meeting and vote and submit our budget on time without having to schedule a third contingency meeting. The budget published would just be the do not exceed number. We can reduce the budget after publishing but not increase it.
- 9. Other Business
- 10. With no other business a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Supervisor George and seconded by Councilperson Hosette. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.



Chance Kness, Coordinator

1/15/2025

Date



Emergency Management Chairperson

1/15/25

Date