

Linn County Emergency Management Commission

MINUTES

Linn County Emergency Management Commission Meeting
Tue, Apr 18, 2023 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CST)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

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MEMBER JURISDICTION	Member (Per Code of IA 29c - mayor, supervisor, sheriff)	Designated Alternate (member's representative excluding budget issues)
Alburnett		Chris Shelby
Bertram	Steve Carpenter	
Cedar Rapids	Ann Poe	
Center Point		
Central City		Trevyn Cunningham
Coggon	Reenie Montgomery	
Ely		
Fairfax		Lynn Miller
Hiawatha	Bill Bennett	
Lisbon		
Marion		Tom Fagan
Mt. Vernon		
Palo	Angie Brekke	
Prairieburg		
Robins	Dick Pilcher	
Sheriff	Brian Gardner	
Springville		
Supervisor	Louis Zumbach	
Walker		
Walford	Bill Voss	

Serving all of Linn County and the Communities of: Alburnett, Bertram, Cedar Rapids, Center Point, Central City, Coggon, Ely, Fairfax, Hiawatha, Lisbon, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Palo, Prairieburg, Robins, Springville, Walker, Walford

EMA Staff:

BJ Dvorak
Dawn Nelson
Tom Ulrich
Brad Ransford

Guests Present:

Dan Hoffmann

1. **Roll Call** - Chair – Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Chair – **Motion by Cedar Rapids second by Hiawatha. Motion carried.**
3. **Public Comments** – Agenda Related – Chair – None.
4. **Invited Guests/Speakers/Presentations/Awards** – None.
5. **Minutes – Approval** - Chair
 - 5.1. February 21, 2023 – Regular Meeting – **Motion by Robins second by Walford. Motion carried.**
6. **Business (Discussion and action may be taken on any of the following)**
 - 6.1. Discuss possible EMA building location. – BJ Dvorak stated he was approached by Supervisor Zumbach regarding a possible location. They feel this is an adequate spot for EMA and would like to discuss it, tonight. Louis Zumbach noted the location was originally looked at for a secondary road shop and is the former Witwer Feed Mill location on Hwy 13 and consists of six (6) acres. This ended up not working for secondary roads. Zumbach said between EMA and the sheriff's office, approximately \$300,000 a year is paid in leases. This location would have building(s) shared by EMA and the SO. An EMA office would be built new and existing buildings would need insulation and other upgrades. The property could be secured with gates and fencing, and by Linn County owning the property, this would save \$300,000/year in lease payments, between multiple budgets. The property is located in the center of the county, on Hwy 13. It sits on the joint communications network. There is ample room for storage and would work for sheriff storage, also. Other advantages were noted. Sheriff Gardner met with Supervisor Zumbach and Coordinator Dvorak. The property is South of County Home Road on the East side of the road. It is near the landfill and Secondary Roads. Dvorak shared photos of the site. The Sheriff's office rents garages in Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids and they would need a secured area in the building. Marion inquired of the scope of building and if this would also include the EOC. Tom Ulrich noted we would move our rolling stock and warehouse, first. We would have to sink a well. Marion asked if there were tentative plans to completely move EMA to this site and Gardner stated yes. A Space Needs Assessment was previously conducted. EMA offices are located at Kirkwood Community College and KCC wants the space and is willing to work with us. There would be a monetary component to it, for us to leave. Zumbach stated it is on the Board of Supervisor's agenda, for tomorrow, for closed session. Linn County has some funds available for a building and property. As soon as leases are up, those locations would be moved. It would be approximately two to three years for offices to be built and ready to be moved into. A 40 x 40 shop is needed for the Siren shop. Gardner stated this is a project that has been going on for a dozen years and this is the first workable option. One supervisor is in favor of it as he brought it to us/EMA. Tom Ulrich noted the Siren maintenance division, which was located at DAEC (Duane Arnold Energy Center). Ulrich said we had to move the shop off DAEC property. This was housed in a 40 x 40 building and included all siren parts, equipment and vehicles. We moved

all Siren related items into the EMA warehouse. There are five buildings located on the property being looked at. Three could potentially be connected. The smaller shop might be taken down. Gardner stated we're not talking about money tonight. It was noted EMA can't own property. We would direct the county to move forward with pursuing and purchasing the property. Cedar Rapids said they appreciate Linn County's fiscal responsibility and the ability for EMA to coordinate effectively. There is the ability to get to the location easily. The Flood of 2008 was referenced. Gardner noted accessibility is a concern for all partners. There is road accessibility with Hwy 13 and that runs to Hwy 30. Linn County is working with a realtor. The Joint Communications Network (JCN) is across the road and was put in when they had to relocate the sheriff's office during the Flood of 2008. We also have to have this for EMA. Cedar Rapids stated we have the ability to work together and coordinate a rapid response. Bertram noted he was here when EMA moved into KCC and inquired about the hardened facility. The EOC is hardened, and Gardner said the new EOC would be hardened and secured - office and EOC hardened. Hiawatha said it is a good idea. **Motion by Fairfax second by Hiawatha to authorize Linn County to pursue the property located at 2957 Hwy 13, Marion, for a new location to house EMA, HazMat and Siren. Motion carried.**

7. **Reports – None.**
8. **Upcoming Events – None.**
9. **Public Comments (Non-agenda related) – Louis Zumbach thanked everyone for the support and noted this isn't a done deal but we will move forward.**
10. **Adjournment – Meeting declared adjourned, by Commission Chair Brian Gardner, at 6:39 p.m.**