

# **Bremer County Emergency Management Commission**

Denver – Rod Diercks      Frederika – Duane Meihost      Janesville – David Beenblossom  
Plainfield – Tom Geise      Readlyn – Dan Wedemeier (C)      Sumner – Brian Bockhaus  
Tripoli – Dan Kalkbrenner      Waverly – Mark Anderson  
Board of Supervisors – Corey Cerwinske  
Sheriff’s Office – Dan Pickett      Aaron Goodenbour - Coordinator

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## **Minutes November 20, 2025 @ 4:00pm Bremer-Waverly Law Enforcement Center Lower-Level Training Room**

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** In accordance with Iowa Code 21.8, this meeting is made virtually available to its member via Avaya phone system.

~Call to Order:

By Commission Chair Dan Wedemeier @ 4:00pm.

~Introductions:

Attorney Darius Robinson

~Approval of Agenda:

Motioned by Corey Cerwinske, Seconded by Dave Beenblossom.  
All ayes, motion carried

~Approval of minutes from April 29, 2025 meeting

Motioned by Mark Anderson, Seconded by Tom Geise  
All ayes, motion carried

It was brought to attention of the commission by Cerwinske we need to approve the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes. Tom Geise Motioned, Mark Anderson Seconded to table the item until our next meeting. All Ayes, motion carried.

~EMA Update:

- Budget:  
Aaron provided a brief status of the current budget.
- Department Update:  
Aaron shared various trainings and events that happened over the last few months. Along with some future plans and projects. Geise asked if there are plans for another flood gauge between Waverly and Charles City to help with flood preparations. Aaron replied he has a meeting with the National Weather Service in a couple weeks and that is a topic up for discussion.

~Old Business: None

~New Business:

- Review and Approve the Educational & Experience Qualifications Letter drafted by County Attorney Darius Robinson:

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Attorney Darius Robinson shared the reasoning for this document also meeting with Aaron compiling all of his certifications and education documents. Cerwinski mentioned he also reached out to Brent Hinders (Civil Rights Attorney) to get his legal opinion on the qualifications and administrative code.

Motioned by Rod Diercks, Seconded by Dave Beenblossom to approve the Educational & Experience Qualifications Letter generated by Attorney Darius Robinson. Majority, motion carried. Cerwinski voted as present-not opposed.

- Assign and Approve, Custodian of Records for EMA Commission:  
Motioned by Mark Anderson, Seconded by Dave Beenblossom to designate the EMA Commission Coordinator as the Custodian of Records for the EMA Commission.  
All Ayes, Motion carried
- Crisis K9 Proposal- Dustin Newhoff:  
Dustin shared his proposal to work with Aaron and the EMA Commission on starting a Crisis K9 program for Bremer County. It would benefit citizens and responders in various mental and emotional needs. Dustin and Aaron are working out details on different cost and funding plans. The EMA Commission was in favor of the proposal and more discussion at the next meeting. Various members expressed how mental health is a huge concern in today’s society.
- Approve/Adopt, 2.6 Evaluations for Employee Handbook:  
Aaron explained this is a county wide addition to the departments. Boards and/or commissions will be required to have an Evaluation Plan in place. The commission agrees to put a plan together.  
Motioned by Tom Geise, Seconded by Corey Cerwinski  
All Ayes, Motion Carried
- Vehicle Update Discussion:  
Aaron explained how the RAM 1500 is lower miles yet and still worth a decent number. A 2026 Chevy Tahoe was presented as the replacement vehicle. The Commission is saving \$8500/ year towards vehicle replacement to help offset the cost. Sherriff Pickett asked to check if the window is still open to order 2026 vehicles. The EMA Commission was in favor of more discussion at our next meeting, along with more solid numbers and dates.
- Approve Alternate Contact for the ICAP Member Proxy:  
Motioned by Tom Geise, Seconded by Duane Meihost to set the Alternate contact as the Chairman of the EMA Commission  
All Ayes, Motion Carried
- Letter to legislatures- Mark Anderson:

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Mark Anderson shared a letter he produced to send to our State Representatives about concerns with the Iowa Administrative Code 605.7. The main points of concern were how its written and could cause a majority of other Iowa Counties at risk for possible noncompliance. Mark is going to handle getting Commission member signatures that support his letter and submit to the addressed parties.

- **Civil Rights Report:**  
Chairman Dan Wedemeier opened the floor for questions on the final findings of the report. Tom Geise wanted to clarify that the findings showed no fault in the hiring processes by the EMA Commission. Tom Geise also shared concern in some language that stood out with a conversation between Corey Cerwinski and the complainant. Geise commented on how we all need to be cautious on future communications and follow processes.
- **Recommendation Letter:**  
Chairmen Dan Wedemeier explained from the Civil Rights Case that the general consensus of the EMA Commission is requesting a new representative from the Board of Supervisors. Dan Wedemeier asked all EMA Commission members that are in support of this letter to sign after the meeting.

~Comments from Commission Members: None

~Comments from Public:

Matthew Schneider (Keep Waverly Moving) Shared the groups initiative to change road diets and emergency response times. He also expressed concerns of plume modeling within Bremer County for the potential Carbon Pipeline.

Mike Lacoste expressed his concern on the Civil Rights Settlement and why the EMA Commission approved it. Tom Geise replied back stating there is a process with our County Attorney to go through to receive that kind of information.

~Adjourn

Motioned by Mark Anderson, Seconded by Tom Geise to adjourn @ 5:38  
All Ayes, Motion Carried