EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CHICKASAW COUNTY

October 26, 2026

Meeting called to order by Geerts at 1700

Commission members present: Jacob Hackman, Jason Tenge, Randy Taylor, James Mitchell, Jim Ashley, Mark Mueterthies, Burt Ostert, Zach Nosbisch, Steve Geerts, Ryan Shawver, Shelly Weiss

Guests: Jeff Bernatz, Amy Laures, Larry Laures, Kyle Wendland, Jim Cook, Doreen Cook, David Laudner, Dawn Heying, Jeremy McGrath, Bob Fenske, Carly Sedivy, Michael Graves, Bridget Edson, Amy Norby

Motion by Ashley, second by Hackman to approve the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Taylor , second by Mitchell to approve the October 7, 2026 Emergency Management Commission meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Shawver provided an email containing the final draft of the Winneshiek and Howard County Emergency Management Commissions sharing one coordinator for both counties which was requested at the October 7, 2026 Chickasaw County EMC meeting.

Bernatz advised the Chickasaw County EMC that due to the circumstances he has applied for the full-time EMT position with Chickasaw County EMS and was approved by the Board of Supervisors that morning. Bernatz advised that he wants to help with transition for the future of Chickasaw County EMA.

Ashley expressed his concern for the response time of an out of county EMA and recommended hiring a part-time coordinator to keep it in the county.

Hackman discussed asking the Chickasaw County EMS Director if he would be willing to bring the Chickasaw County First Responders which currently falls under Chickasaw County Rescue Squad and EMA. Motion by Mitchell, second by Tenge to ask the Chickasaw County EMS Director if he would be willing to bring the Chickasaw County First Responders under Chickasaw County EMS. Aye – 8 / Nay – 1 Bassett Motion Carried.

Chickasaw County Attorney Laudner recommended to the EMC not to accept Bernatz's resignation tonight due to the fact that if Chickasaw County does not follow the requirements of Iowa Code 29C then they will not be eligible to receive any money in the event of a disaster.

Laudner gave two options for moving forward; 1. Make a motion to put out an ad for a part-time Chickasaw County EMA Coordinator, 2. Make a motion to have members of Chickasaw County EMC approach Winneshiek County EMC about a sharing agreement.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Hackman to approach Winneshiek County EMC to see if they are interested in a 28E Agreement to share an EMA Coordinator and then accept Bernatz's resignation for December 1, 2026. Roll Call: Fredericksburg Yes, Board of Supervisors Yes, North Washington Yes, Nashua Yes, Lawler Yes, Ionia No, Bassett No, Alta Vista Yes, Sheriff Yes, New Hampton Yes. Motion carried 8-2.

Shawver advised the EMC that it is also an option to use 911 funds if Winneshiek would accept the agreement and also do 911 duties.

Larry Laures asked if it is possible the cities to contribute to the EMA budget, he was advised that is an option but you still can't go over the current budget amount plus 3%.

Taylor discussed the fact that something needs to be done soon because EMS Director Joel Knutson is not going to wait 4-6 months for Bernatz to start work on EMS because EMC does not have a Coordinator.

Motion by Weiss, second by Mitchell to adjourn. 1800

Jeff Bernatz, Coordinator
Chickasaw County Emergency Management