

Present: Mark O'Brien, CC BOS; Jim Behrens, Atlantic; Mark Opbroek, Marne; Kirt Underwood, Griswold; Simon Jensen, Anita; John Westering, CCSO; Ryan Archibald, Lewis; Jackson Bissell, Massena and Mike Kennon, CC EMA.

Absent: Mitch Boysen, Wiota and Virginia Coughlin, Cumberland

Guests: Bobbi Jo Steffensmeier, CC Dispatch; Tom Robinson, KSOM and Erik Johnson, AmeriCorps.

Chair Mark O'Brien: Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.

Kirt Underwood: Motion to approve the agenda.

Jim Behrens: Second.

Carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

Mark O'Brien called the Public Hearing to order @ 6:38 PM.

Mike Kennon stated that the EMA budget has been used to "pass-through" ARPA re-imbursement projects, ICAP grant re-imbursements and Rural First-Aid Project/AmeriCorps. These pass-through funds are reimbursed and come back on the revenue side of the budget, so the fund balance always remains positive. We may need to amend the Budget at some point before the fiscal year is up. There is nothing else that is unusual and there are also no big projects planned for the coming year. The EMA Coordinator's salary would be set at \$62,000.

No further discussion.

Kirt Underwood: Motion to close Public Meeting.

Simon Jensen: Second.

Carried Unanimously.

Jackson Bissell: Motion to approve the Cass County Emergency Management Budget FYE 2026 as presented and published in the 1-16-2025 edition of the Atlantic News-Telegraph.

Kirt Underwood: Second.

Carried Unanimously.

### **Election of Officers**

Ryan Archibald: Motion to nominate Mark O'Brien as EMA Board Chair, Jim Behrens as Vice Chair and Mike Kennon as Recording Secretary

Simon Jensen: Second.

Respectfully Submitted,



No further nominations or discussion.  
Carried Unanimously.

Jim Behrens: Motion to approve minutes of 10-22-2024 EMA Board meeting.  
Kirt Underwood: Second.  
Carried unanimously.

Jim Behrens: Motion to approve October, November, December expenses.  
Kirt Underwood: Second.  
Carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**Coordinator's Report**

Mike Kennon reported that the State asks more and more of it's EMPG recipients. Kennon said that the positives of being EMPG compliant is that the Board knows that the EMA Coordinator is doing their job adequately.

Cass County will host a NWS Storm Spotter Class on March 11 at 6:30PM in the courthouse courtroom. Kennon has recently attended a Region 4 Exercise with area PH and hospitals. He also attended a Damage Assessment training. Kennon will be working on updates to the County Comprehensive EM Plan and Recovery Planning. These activities are requirements to remain compliant with EMPG performance grant requirements.

Erik Johnson gave a brief update of his work with AmeriCorps and the Cass Co. Rural First-Aid Project. Kennon then reported that the Atlantic PD had received new ISICS radios to be used in the new SRO program in Atlantic.

Finally, Kennon reported that there is new State legislation being proposed to provide a clear understanding of how emergency management is designed and how it is to be funded.

No public comments or concerns.

Ryan Archibald: Motion to adjourn at 7:07 PM.  
Jackson Bissell: Second.

Respectfully Submitted



# Sign-In Sheet

DATE: January 28, 2025

LOCATION: Cass County Courthouse

[illegible]