Johnson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency
Dave C. Wilson, IA-CEM
Coordinator/Director

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# Johnson County Iowa EMA Commission Minutes from Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 5:30 PM

The Johnson County Iowa Emergency Management Commission meet at the above listed date and time **at the newly completed storage garage located at 2000 Bailey Way in Tiffin, Iowa. 52340**

**This meeting had a virtual participation option for those wishing to participate via conference call.**
**Participants dialed in using the dial in option - calling: 1-319-519-1237 and entered conference call code: 642332**

This meeting was subject to Iowa open meeting laws and rules, and was not moved into closed, or executive session.
All agendas were posted at least 24 hrs. in advance of all meetings on the following website: www.JECC-EMA.org, as well as at the Public Entrance to the JECC-EMA Building at 4529 Melrose Avenue in Iowa City, Iowa *and at the 2000 Bailey Way, Tiffin, IA. Locations*.

## Minutes of the meeting as follows:

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** *Director Wilson did a roll call: Commission members on the conference call were: Mayor Teague of Iowa City, and Mayor O'Neil of Solon. Commission members present onsite were Chairperson/Mayor of Hills - Kemp, Vice Chairperson/Mayor of University Heights - From, Commission member/Johnson County Board of Supervisors, Green-Douglas, Mayor Goodrich of Coralville, Mayor Johnson of Oxford, Councilperson Wayson of North Liberty, Councilperson Schnedler of Tiffin, and Sheriff Kunkel, Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Guest present were City Administrator Doug Boldt for Tiffin and Public present was Dr. Robert From, DO*

**Staff present were:** *Director Dave Wilson.*

**Absent was**: *Deputy Director Beckman (agency staff).*

**Absent member entities were:** *Commission members not represented and absent were Commissioners for the City of Shueyville, the City of Swisher, and the City of Lone Tree. A quorum of 7 is required and attendance at this meeting was 10 of 13 member entities.*

**2. Call to order:** *The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 5:30 PM.*

**3**. **Approval of consent agenda items: A) Access Compliance Statement:** (Verification of Public Notice Publication under Iowa Code Section 21.4); **B) tonight's agenda; C) minutes from the September 2026 meeting.** *Director Wilson provided the attestation of publication for the meeting. No formal action on this is required by the Commission-only notice of the attestation. The consent agenda was moved for approval as posted by Green-Douglas and second by Kunkel, which passed unanimously with a voice vote. No nays. All ayes. Minutes of the past meeting and the agenda are adopted as published.*

**4. Public Comment Period:** (Open to citizens on topics not on the official agenda) (not to exceed 2 minutes per person). *Dr. From was present as a guest of the Mayor of University Heights but had no formal topics to cover. No communications to the agency requiring action were brought since the past meeting.*

**5**. **Topics from the Commission members:** *Commission members briefly discussed the new facility which is 99% complete and we now have a City of Tiffin temporary occupancy certificate for. A couple of items yet to resolve are being addressed by the contractor, subs for trades (electrical-breakers) and the remaining sidewalk/driveway approach and landscaping as well as fencing in front of the generator/transformer ground units. Fencing is going up tomorrow and there is a schedule for other items required for issuance of the full occupancy permit that are laid out and were discussed. No concerns shared from members present.*

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**5. New Business:**

a. **Update on the EMA Commission Storage Garage and logistics facility:** Tonight, the Chairperson wished to hold the meeting at the new storage facility. The facility was shown and discussed with members present. To that end Wilson purchased 12 used stools from Welter storage and a new multipurpose table for the garage. *Members present were shown the facility (phase one) which is basically complete as awarded, Commission asked if it would be filled up soon and staff said yes, this is phase 1 of 2 and only 8,300 square foot of what has been planned as a 15,000 square foot facility when phase 2 is completed. A question was posed on that phase 2 capitol plan and Wilson stated it is presently in the capitol improvement plan for FY28 bond budget with the board. It should come in less than phase 1 as this end has the fancy façade as well as the utility infrastructure in it. Phase 2 is essentially only storage space and extending the existing sprinkler/fire alarm system, the utilities and the building shell and structure. It will not contain the extensive brick and glass that phase 1 does. Some of the cost of cement is being completed in this phase using remaining contingency funds from the present bond as well as the balance of the exterior landscaping such as trees. Phase 2 will have 2 mezzanines, one per end as well as 3-4 more drive through bays but with narrower spacing between the 14x14 overhead doors. It will also have only a partial restroom with a stool, urinal and sink, where this phase had a full ADA restroom and shower plus laundry center. Our hope is that it is funded by the Board of Supervisors who have to by code do the bonding for the Commission, in FY28's budget.*

b. **Discussion on future FEMA grant applications, and the status of outstanding reimbursements of funds for HMEP, HSGP & EMPG FEMA grants the Commission was already awarded.** *Director Wilson provided a status update on the above listed grants and where we presently are with regard to reimbursements. The HSGP (homeland security grant funds of just over $73K are still yet to be processed and we were given a time extension for which Deputy Director Beckman will be addressing upon his return from medical leave next week. The EMPG grant ($39K owed from the prior year was recently paid out to us. That took over a year to get back. An additional $39K is still owed from EMPG. Wilson discussed the new policy limitations that DHS-FEMA and Iowa HSEM have added into EMPG and other federal grants since the second term of President Trump. Wilson shared that some of the large counties and even some smaller ones such as Lee County are opting out of future or present EMPG and other federal grants as the regulatory burden has become more in admin costs at the local level then is worth the payout. Wilson states that the Bomb truck, generator for the building and security camera system have all been disallowed due to new interpretation from HSEM/FEMA even though they are still shown on what was at the time of the grant application, approved items on the AEL/RKB (approved equipment list & responder knowledge base) lists. Now with limitations tied to things such as DEI, and a prohibition on using funds for sheltering of immigrants and other things, the funding constraints for these grants do not make it worth our time. Wilson asked for direction from the Commission as he begins preparation for budgeting as it relates to grants ran by HSEM for EMPG specifically. The Sheriff shared similar comments regarding recent grants that they use to pursue and they are no longer doing so for similar reasons. The Commission consensus was to direct staff to leave out the EMPG grant at the federal level in the next proposed budget and not pursue it until regulations and policies change. We are capped at $39K and have been since at least 2007 and it has become not worth the administrative burden these past 2 years. Commission directed that we not pursue this grant and to weigh the benefit of pursuing other DHS FEMA grants until things change at HSEM & DHS/FEMA. HMEP, the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant, which is under the Federal DOT was unchanged and we are getting that funding back soon for a course we held recently. Even that grant is shy about $1k from what the course cost us to host. We will be weighing that grant as well as it is now open also. Consensus from Commission was for staff to not pursue any Federal grant this next FY that staff feel does not provide adequate return on investment of time such as HMEP and EMPG.*

c. Discussion on FY28 draft budget. *Wilson covered that according to information we are being provided by Mr. Parker at State DOM and others at HSEM, the FY28 budget will be capped for growth at 3% over the FY27 approved budget, NOT inclusive of costs from the Hazmat program which is invoiced as a per capita and Not inclusive of the JECSA 28E for 911 communications. With that in mind, Wilson will draft a budget for presentation to the Commission for 3% over what was approved in FY27 after we remove the JECSA amount and the hazmat amounts. Commission was supportive and shared that everyone has their hands tied with the legislative changes that occurred this past session and nearly all are capped even lower at 2% total growth.*

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**6. Activity Report** from Coordinator/Agency Director: *The Deputy Director has been out on medical and it is extended until Monday when I anticipate his return. Wilson provided an update of program area calls, activities since the past meeting and discussed the balance of football season and a few other special event support request such as holiday lights at the lake. Sheriff Kunkel asked if the local public works departments and athletics are sharing the load when it comes to use of equipment and deployment of items owned by the agency. Wilson discussed that the partnership is good and he feels fair but the issue is always that we only have 2 staff when everyone is present so the impact is different from a department with 12 or more staff. That said, we have a great relationship with all the public works departments and with Athletics and others at the U of I and they help house, transport in some instances, and help maintain, a great deal of the equipment. It is just tough when your talking about a two person agency versus some that have a dozen on staff or more. Wilson didn't feel we are being unfairly burdened, it is just that we do not have the manpower of many larger agencies or departments. That said there are some public works departments that are 1-2 people on staff as well. Luckily a lot of the use of equipment is in the metro area where larger public works departments are able to help get things setup and torn down. We still have to help with planning and accountability though no matter who does set up/teardown. Recently 4 bike rack barriers went missing after the homecoming parade and the U of I will be invoiced for those replacements. That is just an example of we still have to track everything. No changes were suggested. No action taken by the Commission.*

**7**. **Other old business.** Ordering of replacement bomb team vehicle as impacted by EMPG grant changes. Since this is now disallowed then we are tabling the purchase until FY28. Commission was supportive. We will focus on closing out other grants such as HSGP and circle back on this in the upcoming FY. Consent from the Commission was to table the purchase as suggested, until the next FY.

**8. Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Confirmation for first Thursday of December on 12/3/26 at 5:30 back at JECC-EMA main office located at 4529 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, IA. 52246 –** *Commission was fine with the dates proposed and motion to adjourn by Green-Douglas and second by Wayson, at 5:56 PM. Motion carried, all ayes.*

**9**. **Adjournment –** *Adjourned at 5:56 PM.*