

Minutes of Washington County
Zoning/EMA/Environmental Committee
August 4th , 2025

Those present were Dave Karg, Eric Malick, Dan Bronke and Paul Todd

Called to order 17:35

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with a motion by Paul and seconded by Eric

Zoning

Matt explained the ZBA recessed their July 24th meeting in reference to the BESS ordinance. They are scheduled to reconvene on the 28th of August. It should then be ready to be heard at the County board meeting on Sept. 9th meeting.

The ZMA case was approved and sent to the County board for approval for this month.

Matt explained that two years ago someone complained they were unable to get in to do zoning at the office due to both Matt and Darrah at a required training. It was decided then to move the hours around and on Thursday's zoning would be from 1:30pm to 5:30 pm. Since that change not one person has been in the office after hours and Matt feels it is unnecessary to be open that late. The committee agreed and hours for zoning were set back to 8-4 Tues and 1:30 to 4 on Thursdays with an emphasis being put on calling for appointments.

Along with that discussion Matt pointed out that very few people come in for building permits anymore. They want to do it online. He had visited getting software 6 years ago, but the committee felt it was an unnecessary need at the time. It is time to revisit it.

People can email an application to the office but then it becomes a passing back and forth of emails to get one permit done. There is software that can do this and cut out all the extra work and emails that are going on. This would also allow for payment online.

Matt also talked about the mapping software they use being sun setted and this will cause an annual increase to the fees paid of at least \$300 dollars. He suggested that the County look into setting up a GIS line item to help with his and the Assessors office when it comes to this software. The highway department has also expressed interest in utilizing GIS. There is a line item already for GIS controlled by the Assessor, but she stated that it is not for updating software.

EMA

Matt reported that they were out at the County Fair each night and have become a welcomed asset to the Fair committee. They help with communications and weather support as well as supplying the MABAS tent for a cooling center and first aid station.

Matt told the committee that this month's expenditure was abnormally high but that was due to the annual Hyper-reach bill. This is a shared bill with the Health Department and half will be given back to the line item.

Touch a truck will be done again this year on August 19th at the State Lake. The local fire , police and ambulance as well as the IDNR participated and let the small kids get up and close to the

vehicles. It was a huge success last year and EMA is looking forward to participating again this year.

Matt Reported that the National Weather Service has honored Washington County by designating them a Storm Ready Community. This is a honor and takes a lot of hard work to obtain. There are several things that must be met to earn this designation. The Washington County EMA has worked hard to earn this.

The annual budget request was gone over. Matt stated he was able to keep most of the line items at the same level with changes only increases being made in the salary and in Zoning supplies due to the ArcGIS mapping software update. Motion to approve by Eric and second by Dan motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Paul and second by Eric
Adjourned at 18:20