

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the Clinton County Law Center with Clinton County Emergency Management Agency Commission to discuss County preparedness and drill costs for Constellation Energy. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George.

1:00 P.M. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Formal Action & Motions

Chairman Irwin conducted introductions and then reviewed the background of the reason for the meeting. Irwin spoke of the cost of the drills and preparedness that included staff used at the Emergency Operations Center and the reunification center at Northeast High School in Goose Lake. He said no other company costs taxpayers this much for their business operations.

County EMA Director Chance Kness said the current partnership does not work and the burden on Clinton County is now too great and changes need to be made. He said it isn't all funding. He said the issues had been brought to Constellation a while ago and they have not responded. Kness said the amount Clinton County is asking for is not a lot. He said it basically is the same amount as a full-time employee and Constellation is asking the County to assume more tasks than one employee can be responsible for.

Supervisor Srp said this discussion has been magnified due to new state laws that are causing all budget items to be reviewed.

Kevin Cain, Goose Lake Fire Department Chief, said a true honest assessment of the relocation center at Northeast Schools is that it is not a good plan. He said people can show up for a planned drill, but an actual event would not have enough people to administer the plan, let alone the days after the event. He said he's not sure why Goose Lake was chosen as the relocation center. Cain said since 2016 he's asked FEMA and Constellation what happens after the day of the event for decontamination and he has yet to get an answer. He said the decontamination center should be moved where they may have more resources outside of a potential event area.

Kness said they have known for a while there were issues with having the relocation center in Goose Lake. He said he has looked at alternatives for a reception center and discovered Linn County was receptive to hosting that function and they have experience as they once had a nuclear plant in Linn County. He said in December of 2023 other reception center locations were discussed and he has yet to be told of a better solution than Linn County. He has yet to hear from Constellation on that plan.

Irwin said the County is not comfortable moving forward with the current agreement with Constellation that ends in July of this year.

Ryan Tozer, Constellation Government Affairs, said they are here to learn and listen. He said that large of an increase requested by Clinton County is extremely high and they are looking for more explanation for that. He said they believe they have some ideas that could help relieve some costs. He said they also have connections to lobbyists to help talk to legislators to address the changes Clinton County claims. Tozer said they need to know how much the radiological preparedness is costing EMA.

Kness said they answered these questions a year ago. He said the changes in 2021 and in 2022 with the State of Iowa changing the relationship and passed off many responsibilities to Scott and Clinton County. He said at the same time FEMA ramped up requirements.

Dennis Moore, with Constellation, said he was at the meeting last year. He said they did walk away from the meeting not understanding all the numbers but did understand what Iowa moved to the County. He said there was a staff issue in his office which is why some replies have been delayed. He believes there has been some reasonable discussions with Iowa which should have rolled things back to the State.

Kness said we are several months into that deal they apparently made with Iowa and nothing has changed for the County. Moore said they will need to follow up with Iowa about that. Kness said the County still needs to do some planning and training.

Irwin said they are meeting with Homeland Security in Des Moines next week on this matter and will follow up with them on those duties.

Kness said Constellation now wants Clinton County to submit a quarterly invoice with no promise to reimburse those invoices.

Srp asked what is out of line of what Clinton County has asked. Moore said they have 32 risk counties for Constellation and Clinton County's request is substantially more than any other community including suburbs of large American cities. Moore said Constellation could go above what they are doing now for Clinton County, but the \$182,000 request is unattainable.

Sheriff Bill Greenwalt said there are a lot of resources that are expended for the County's preparedness.

Supervisor George said the same letter from the County was also sent to Iowa Homeland Security and that's why they are meeting with them next week. George said the State is not funneling any of the money to Clinton County that Constellation is sending to the State.

Moore said he would be happy to gather concerns about FEMA observations and changes and take them to FEMA directly. He said that is on the side of today's discussion but wanted to make that offer.

Srp said there is some past here that should not be discounted, but Constellation is here to work through it now.

Kness said his counterparts in Illinois appear to get more support from their state and FEMA than what is experienced in Iowa.

Greenwalt said Iowa doesn't receive any taxation from Constellation like the communities do in Illinois.

Tozer said they are looking at radiological response and they need more information. He said the meeting with Homeland Security may shed some light on the discussion. Irwin asked if he is hinting at the State sharing some of their responsibilities. Tozer said he thought the State had already responded to the County. Irwin said that is what next week's meeting is about. Tozer said he could stick around after the public meeting and review some of the items the County is claiming for reimbursement from Constellation.

It was agreed that Constellation will review the County request and respond in the next 60 days.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, February 26, 2024.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson