

Cass County
Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC)
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Herb Bowman.

PRESENT: Alvin Beckman, Randy Pryor, Wally Bennett, Stacey Donato, Herb Detrick, Herb Bowman, Liz Troxell, Rocky Buffum, Mark Strong, Phil Rains

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes was tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTS

There are a few documents needing Commissioner Approval. No significant events to report.

DISTRICT 4

On November 20 a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was held in Fountain County to test the use of WebEOC. Alvin Beckman and Liz Troxell participated.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18th. The district will discuss training and exercises. Funding for exercises is limited as most of the current funding is focused on maintenance. National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) training are expected.

NIMS

Alvin Beckman submitted the required form to report Cass County Emergency Management is compliant with NIMS Training Requirements. Alvin Beckman reports next year Emergency Management will be tasked to complete a NIMS Typing form for the entire county. The form planned for next year will flow up to a national database.

EBOLA TRAINING EXERCISE

Alvin Beckman reported the Ebola Training Exercise held on November 21 was well attended. Some highlights discussed included social media. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports at this time there are no known or suspected cases of Ebola in the United States.

2015 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Alvin Beckman reports Shawn Shedron who previously was appointed by the Cass County Council is no longer a member of the Cass County Fire District. Gary Chambers was recommended as a potential replacement. Nate from PROMPT Ambulance will represent Emergency Medical Services on the EMAC.

ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS

The Cass County Emergency Management Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday at 530PM. 22 have RSVP'd.

NEW BUSINESS

REBANDING REIMBURSEMENT

Alvin shared a copy of a communication received from EMR Consulting. EMR Consulting is handling the radio rebanding project for Nextel. The document shared indicates Cass County will receive \$39,410 as reimbursement for the cost of rebanding. Alvin Beckman reported updates were made to 244 portable radios, 136 mobile radios, and 13 mobile radios needed to be replaced.

A meeting will occur with Alvin Beckman, the Sheriff, Police Chief and dispatch to discuss use of the funds received.

WARNING SIREN ISSUES

A module used to activate Warning Sirens (sirens) was updated at Central Dispatch. At this time remote activation of sirens is not functional. Remote activation occurs through a tone sent over radio frequencies. As a backup sirens can be activated by calling a phone number and entering a code. There are multiple potential solutions and we will know more once the situation is more thoroughly analyzed. Another new module might be needed for dispatch. The radios connected to the sirens might need to be "touched" like the mobile and portable radios were.

Alvin Beckman reports there are 26 warning sirens in Cass County, 10 in the City of Logansport and 16 in the county. 18 sirens can be activated remotely and the rest must be activated manually.

Phil Rains asked if a siren for Metea was being considered. Alvin Beckman reported at one time the county considered adding ten warning sirens. A challenge is the cost, between \$25,000 and \$26,000 to install one warning siren. Alvin Beckman reports with modern technology such as reverse 911, Mass Notification Systems (MNS), Weather Alert Radios and phone alerts warning sirens are almost obsolete. Alvin reported for the cost of one weather siren he could purchase 15,000 Weather Alert Radios.

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

WebEOC Training will be held in Lafayette on December 11th. Rocky Buffum and Chris Cover will be attending. Alvin will hold a local training for volunteers and representatives from other agencies.

National Weather Service Weather Spotter Training will be held at 630PM, February 19th at Ivy Tech in Logansport.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Claims were approved in the amount of \$6,004.09 on a motion duly made and seconded. Alvin Beckman reports about half of the submitted claims are for maintenance of warning sirens.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 7PM.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Buffum, EMAC Secretary