

Cass County
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015

The EMAC met at 7PM at the EMA Offices, 1227 N. SR 17, Logansport. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Herb Detrick.

PRESENT: Dan Farris, Alvin Beckman, Herb Detrick, Wally Bennett, Liz Troxell, Gary Chambers, Mark Strong, Ed Schroder, Zack Zimmerman, Rocky Buffum, Mike Deitrick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion duly made and seconded.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTS

To date all needed documentation has been signed and submitted. Work continues to finalize a \$8,485 grant for light towers and to use \$5,100 of performance grant funding to purchase iPads

DISTRICT 4

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) District 4 met on December 18, 2014 in Lafayette. Much of the discussion focused on funding. After paying the District Administrator's Salary only about \$5-6,000 remain for other district expenses. There is little money available for exercises and none available for new equipment purchases.

A Grant Writing Workshop is being help by Lafayette Police Department tomorrow and Friday. The District will reimburse EMA for the \$455 registration fee for Alvin Beckman attending. The program is presented by Grant Writing USA.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

Changes are on the horizon. Currently independent department submit information to the county EMA, the county forwards information to the state, and the state forwards information to the federal government. A long term goal is integration of databases so all information flows directly from local departments to the federal level. Databases will identify upon submission if personnel are really compliant with NIMS training and other documentation.

2015 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

A file folder was shared indicating what appointments had been made and which ones were still pending.

REBANDING REIMBURSEMENT

EMA received a check for \$39,410. This is "pain and suffering" money for the inconvenience of needing to have radios "touched." Money must be distributed to the departments for whom radios were reprogrammed. Alvin Beckman has asked EMR Consulting for an itemized list by department to help determine how much money should be sent to which department. In the absence of receiving the requested list Alvin Beckman will need to meet with other department heads to try to figure it out locally.

Alvin Beckman reported upcoming system upgrades will double the number of "ID's" available so more radios can be added to the network.

WARNING SIREN ISSUES

Alvin Beckman reported problems getting city Warning Sirens to activate. Upgrades have been made at the dispatch center. Alvin Beckman reported the county might have to invest in a repeater system and put sirens on their own frequency. Currently city warning sirens are activated using "Plan A" and county warning sirens are activated using "County Fire." Alvin reported putting sirens on a repeater system, while an expenses, would enable sirens to be gridded off. Gridding would allow sirens to be activated in one part of the county and not another instead of an "all or nothing" system.

The Warning Siren at 400 South will need to be moved due to road changes. Alternate placements were discussed.

Zach Zimmerman asked if Alvin Beckman had received communications from the Galveston Town Council about purchasing a new siren. Alvin Beckman replied quotes and other information were provided to the Galveston Town Council but he has not received any further communication since then.

ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

SEMI FIRE @ THE ANDERSON'S ETHANOL PLANT

Alvin Beckman reported EMA responded to the semi fire at the Anderson's Ethanol Plant. Logansport and Clymers Fire Departments were commended for a quick response. The truck driver was commended for moving the vehicle to a safer location.

BAKKEN OIL SHIPMENTS

Bakken Oil is being moved through White and Tippecanoe Counties. At this time we do not have reason to believe it is moving through Cass County. Transporters are not required to notify the county if it is shipped through. Alvin Beckman reports this oil is much more volatile than normal crude and shipments are expected to double in coming years.

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

Rocky Buffum and Chris Cover completed WebEOC Training in Lafayette.

Alvin Beckman attended the Pipeline Group Training last night in Kokomo.

National Weather Service Weather Spotter Training will be on February 19th in Logansport.

Alvin Beckman will be hosting a Tier II Reporting class on February 12th.

Alvin Beckman is attending a Grant Writing Class tomorrow and Friday.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Alvin Beckman reported EMA had frozen pipes last week. Last year EMA had frozen sewer lines. Currently both lines run under the parking lot between the County Highway Garage and EMA. This might need action to resolve.

Alvin Beckman reported condensation has been accumulating on bottom of the roof and dripping down in the office.

Claims and encumbrments were submitted in the amount of \$2,425.37. Claims were approved on a motion duly made and seconded.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Zack Zimmerman highlighted each county needed to send personnel to a class to prepare for the upcoming radio reprogramming needs. Zack Zimmerman asked Alvin Beckman who would be sent and how it would be determined who gets the "keys" for radio reprogramming. Alvin Beckman reported training would be conducted for the northern part of the state in March or April of 2016. It has not yet been determined who will have the keys to reprogram the radios for Cass County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the EMAC is scheduled for 7PM on February 4, 2015.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Buffum, EMAC Secretary