

VERNON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

September 27th, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Brault-Chairman, Lorn Goede, , Frank McCoy.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Chad Buros-Vernon County Emergency Management, Karen Dahl, Diane McGinnis, Glenda Sullivan, Elizabeth Johnson, Linda Nederlo, Ted Harris, Viroqua Police Chief Daron Jefson, Hillsboro Police Chief Tom Richardson, Linda Kica, Mike Leis, and Richland County EM Director Darin Gudgeon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cary Joholski, David Strudthoff

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brault at 9:04a.m. Affirmation of the proper meeting notice was recited by Chairman Brault.

The minutes of the September 19th 2017 meeting have been reviewed by the committee as mailed. Lorn Goede made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Frank McCoy. All voted aye.

PUBLIC APPEARENCE: public appearances were made during item #7 on the agenda: Karen Dahl, Darin Gudgeon, Tom Richardson, Glenda Sullivan, Beth Johnson, Linda Kica all spoke.

#5. FEMA Bloomingdale Funding: Diane discussed which direction to go for Bloomingdale funding. She said that before funding can be awarded full appraisals need to be done on the properties. FEMA funding for the 2017 flood has been put on hold due to the recent hurricanes in the South. She also talked about which committee should oversee buyouts and maintenance afterwards. Diane stated that she will continue to pursue the buyouts she is currently working on, this would also include Avalanche property and one in Readstown. Dennis stated that discussion will continue on this. Frank made a motion to pursue appraisals on 3-4 more properties for possible buyouts, Lorn seconded and motion passed.

#6: Discussion on Emergency Management Director Position: Buros discussed the Emergency Management budget in detail as well as the EPCRA and Haz-Mat grant money that the County receives. Handouts were passed out for reference.

#7: Discussion/Action on combining E.M. with the Sheriff's Office: Buros discussed what the different duties are within the Emergency Management Office, and that the Office is a liaison between FEMA and different municipalities and townships. Also that the Office is responsible for responding to any and all types of disasters and Haz-Mat incidents. Buros also discussed his concerns with combining the EM Office with the Sheriff's Office.

Karen Dahl spoke about how Fire Chiefs, Municipalities, EMS and others and how they do not want to have to go through the Sheriff's Office to talk to the Director they want to be able to go straight to the Director.

Frank McCoy stated he talked with Jim Hanson about the possible change and he stated how important it is to leave the Emergency Management Department as a stand-alone department. Frank also voiced his concerns about the potential of losing placement of the Haz-Mat equipment if it were to go to the Sheriff's Office.

Darin Gudgeon discussed how having a stand-alone department you are able to build close partnerships with the other Counties that you border.

Tom Richardson discussed his feelings from the Law Enforcement side and how he believes it should stay a stand-alone department.

Glenda Sullivan spoke about how all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement, have come together as one and she is afraid that it could potentially fall apart if it were to go under the Sheriff's Office.

Beth Johnson discussed how EM was part of Veterans Services many years ago and how it did not work because attention was focused more on Veterans Services.

Dennis stated that no action is needed to keep it a stand-alone department. Emergency Management will continue to be a stand-alone department and will not go under the Sheriff's Office at this time.

Linda Kica talked about the job posting and the process to go through for the applications and interview process.

With no other discussion to be had motion for adjournment by Lorn Goede and seconded by Frank McCoy at 1021 a.m.

The next Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday October 2nd, 2017 at 0930.