

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Thompson at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Bob Liestman, Fire Chief; Donnie Mayer, School; Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Mary Matthews, Hospital; and Paul Wegner, Police Chief (6:50 p.m.). Erin Hauser, Stearns County Emergency Services was also present. Harry Thielen (Township) and Doris Wendlandt were absent.

There were no minutes available for approval.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This was tabled until the next meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee discussed moving the meeting to 5:30 p.m. It was suggested to get feedback from Wendlandt and Thielen; if that time would work for them. This was tabled until the next meeting.

SCHOOL INCIDENT

The Committee reviewed the incident and felt it went well considering. The following was discussed:

- Handling the media
- Hausauer found out about the incident from the State Duty Officer
- Jim Freilinger helped Liestman make calls for resources
- Nothing was found Tuesday morning
- State called Homeland Security when the Hazmat Team was deployed
- Because the City contacted the State for resources, the City should not be billed
- City can call Stearns County EMS for help with assisting in an emergency
- Only time the City would not be in charge, if terrorist attack; FBI would then take over
- Debriefing was very beneficial
- Hospital was organized
- Communication between the hospital and EMS (fire/police) needs to be perfected
- Incident Command was – Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Superintendent
- A few parents got excited
- Mock disaster that was done last Spring was beneficial
- Write a summary of the event to list what could help to have training on or equipment needed – Hausauer will email a template
- Liestman reported that the Fire Department had training last night regarding handling mass casualties
- The use of terminology that everyone understands needs to be perfected such as lock down versus containment
- During the lock down cell phone would be collected from students

2012 STEARNS COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN

Hausauer reported on the Mitigation Plan update. The County approved the Plan this morning and the Plan will be considered by the City Council tomorrow night.

CERT PROGRAM – TRAIN THE TRAINER

The 2003 Community Emergency Response Training had 700 volunteers throughout the Country. This is an 8 week training course in April and May on Tuesday nights. It is better to be prepared; to get support for the Police Department for missing people searches, first aid stations, and flood response. It was suggested to put this in the Community Education and Area Center flyer.

Motion was made by Liestman to authorize Eckerly to attend the CERT Training on March 15 – 17 in New Brighton, MN and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Mayer and unanimously carried.

A grant will pay for lodging, food, and transportation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

The Committee discussed the following:

- Benefits of not having the Fire Chief or Police Chief serve as the Director as it needs to be a separate individual
- One person doing the job versus multiple persons doing the duties
- Hausauer will share her list of CERT members and/or retired firefighters and police officers
- Expectations of the Director
- Person must be task oriented

The job description was reviewed and changes noted.

POLICE OFFICER UPDATE

Wegner reported that the first round of interviews was held and six will have a second interview next week. Wegner suggested that the Council proceed with a background check, physical, and psychological exams on the top candidate.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PATCHES

Wegner would like to work with the school art students to create a new patch. The Department is out of patches and needs to order and Wegner would like a new design.

POLICE MANUAL

Wegner reported that he is currently updating the Police Department Manual.

EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN

Eckerly will ask McColley to go through the Plan and update the phone numbers. There is also a need to add tabs to the book.

STORM WATCH TRAINING

Storm Watch Training will be held on:

- St. Cloud on March 6th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Albany on March 9th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon and 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Holdingford on March 28th
- Government Center on April 16th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.