

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Thompson at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Bob Liestman, Fire Chief; Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Paul Wegner, Police Chief; Mary Matthews, and Denise Czech – Schwandt, Emergency Management Director. Donnie Mayer, Harry Thielen, and Doris Wendlandt (6:25 p.m.).

Motion was made by Wegner to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2013 Public Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Liestman and unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Thompson to appoint Wenger as Chair, Liestman as Vice Chair, and Eckerly as Secretary. Seconded by Matthews and unanimously carried.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule will stay the same on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Liestman would like to be called if the meeting is cancelled on the day of the meeting.

PART-TIME OFFICER POSITION

Wegner reported that the position is being posted.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Eckerly reported that a neighborhood watch was suggested at safety training day and emailed from Stearns County. Wegner stated that this may deter some crimes. The Committee discussed what is involved. Wegner will delegate an officer to research what it would take to set this up. The Gazebo Park area was discussed as a potential first site. This will be put back on the next agenda for an update.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Mary Matthews reported on the Agreement to utilize the City Hall Conference Room in case of an evacuation at CentraCare. This would be a temporary place of transition. If the City has an emergency, CentraCare will go elsewhere. Matthews will update the MOU to CentraCare and change the room to the Council Chambers.

Motion was made by Wegner to approve the MOU between the City of Paynesville and CentraCare Health – Paynesville and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Czech – Schwandt and unanimously carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR REPORT

Czech-Schwandt reported that she has someone interested in being a storm watcher – Britney Haala. The Committee would like to get more people from the public and less firefighters to be storm watchers.

GOLF CARTS & TANDEM BIKES

Wegner reported that this is complicated. The City can only restrict AVT's and golf carts. Everything else is regulated under State Statute. The following questions were raised:

1. Does the City want golf carts on City Streets?
2. Is the City permitting the person or the vehicle?

The Committee suggested taking this to the Chiefs Association and League of Minnesota Cities Policies committee to get some framework in place that municipalities can deal with. Right now, golf carts are not allowed to be used in the City limits under State Statute. The City does not want to prohibit, but needs to regulate the vehicles for safety reasons. Tractors are not allowed into the City unless going to get service or products. Tractors have to be used for farm purposes. Eckerly will email out the City of Owatonna Ordinance.

EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN

No update at this time. The Plan needs to be emailed to Matthews to review.

(Liestman left at 6:53 p.m.)

HOSPITAL & SIREN

Matthews reported that she has visited with the persons involved and they are purchasing weather radio that they can carry on their person. Eckerly suggested Matthews contact Lieutenant Robert Dickhaus at Stearns County to get their 800 MHz radios programmed.

800 MHZ TOWER

Eckerly reported that money is in place and Stearns County will be working with the City in 2014.

CODE RED/NEXUX – NOTIFICATION - UPDATE

Czech-Schwandt reported that Stearns County is not going to do a local system for Paynesville. Willmar has their own. The system costs approximately \$2,500.00. The system could be used for different types of alerts, not just emergency management. The Committee discussed what the annual fee is. The Committee discussed how much time would be consumed by staff. Czech-Schwandt will research this.

OIL TRAINS SPARKING CONCERNS IN SMALL TOWNS – NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

The Committee discussed the newspaper article. The Emergency Operation Plan will address this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.