

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JULY 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Thompson at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Bob Liestman, Donnie Mayer (School), Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; and Doris Wendlandt. Erin Hauser, Stearns County Emergency Services was also present. Harry Thielen (Township), Joe Schmitz, and Frank Carter were absent. Also present were Bob McDaniel, Kay McDaniel, Erin Hausauer, Stearns County; Rachel Erickson, St. Cloud Hospital; Robert Dickhaus, Stearns County Sheriff's Department; and Dean Wuobbel, St. Cloud Fire Department.

Motion was made by Mayer to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2012 Public Safety Committee meeting with the correction that Mayer will not be the Vice Chair. Seconded by Wendlandt and unanimously carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CALL OUT PROTOCOL

Thompson suggested that this be tabled at this time. Dickhaus reported that he was prepared to give a report. Paynesville Township is being patrolled by the Stearns County Sheriff's Department and things have been going well; however, there have been a few bumps. It was questioned when the City Police Officers should respond in the Township in the event of an emergency. In a serious emergency (car crash, heart attack), the expectation is that the closest deputy or officer would be sent to the scene. Some cities do not want the City police to respond. In this case it may be that the City wants the officers to respond. Dispatch will clear it with a supervisor whether to send other police entities to the scene. Paynesville officers should radio and get clearance to respond to be covered by Stearns County for liability. The City should put an agreement together with the Sheriff's Department that the Police officers will respond to all calls or specific calls.

The Committee discussed if there should be an agreement with the Township to reimburse the City for police officers going into the Township. There currently is no such agreement. In May, June, and July Dickhaus reported 17 times Paynesville officers responded to calls outside the City limits. Four of the 17 times the officers responded on their own. 13 times the officers were asked to respond by dispatch. Dickhaus stated that these are not abnormal figures. The Committee discussed having a police officer in place by the first of the year.

MOCK DISASTER

Eckerly reported on what happened during the mock disaster including:

- Communication breakdown
- Have someone assigned to take calls
- Prioritize phone lines and contacts
- Call in more people to do transcribing and documentation
- Bring in other staff to help with documentation
- Hausauer knows of CERT trained people in the community that would be helpful and could be included in the mock disaster
- Incident Command Center – needs to identify roles so people know how to help

- Maybe practice with other staff
- Communication is extremely important
 - GETS cards – register land line – Hausauer will email information on this
 - Can also get this through Verizon for free

Hausauer reported on the County's side:

- County did a shift change to make sure everyone was aware of everything
- Hospital learned from this also and maybe should have a person at the mock disaster
- County does a big mock disaster every 3 years
- The City can take small section such as Incident Command or communications to breakdown and get a better handle on
- City can request assistance from the County
- The Stearns County Fire Chiefs have an agreement to help each other
- There is a good network in the County to help each other out
- 90 fire departments helped out Sartell

Eckerly mentioned that the City is a member of Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) and MNWARN. Hausauer stated that Melrose used MMUA. They walked through all the departments and how to respond to emergencies. The more practice the more comfortable people get. One topic to discuss in the future is what do we do with debris left (like from a flood). The next step is to review the Plan with a scenario. The strength was local resources that can be used.

Planning Section – bring people into the meeting that would be added if it was an actual emergency. Eckerly will email Hausauer for a checklist for activation and deactivation.

2012 STEARNS COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN

It was reported that the Plan is going to the State for approval.

POLICE CHIEF POSITION

Eckerly gave a verbal report on the position.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR POSITION

The Committee discussed the position. Dickhaus reported that most communities use firefighters and fire trucks for storm watching. Dickhaus and Eckerly will talk to Stearns County about sounding the siren. There is an option to have one storm watcher in the police station, two watchers out, and have the Police Chief do the paper work. Bob McDaniel stated that he had been through a disaster in Grand Forks. The role playing is so important. Debris on streets, berms, etc. were extremely dangerous because people couldn't see around the corners.

It was questioned when there are electrical outages what is done with waste.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.