

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 27, 2013

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 were absent.

Motion was made by Wegner to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2013 Public Safety Committee meetings. Seconded by Liestman and unanimously carried.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL TORNADO

The Committee discussed safe rooms in the school and if hallways are the best place for kids in a tornado situation. Eckerly distributed a tornado handout and a handout on safety shelters that are ballistic shields also.

SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

Wegner reported on the open public safety meeting at the school on August 29, 2013. This meeting was requested by the school board.

GOLF CARTS & TANDEM BIKES

Currently golf carts are all illegal at this time. The State Statute allows cities to regulate them in their respective communities. The Committee discussed slow moving vehicle signs and motorized versus non-motorized vehicles. Eckerly will share some examples with Wegner and Wegner will bring back a proposal.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Eckerly reported that September is National Preparedness Month.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR REPORT

Czech-Schwandt reported that Wegner suggested she research Code Red and Nexus which are notification systems. Wegner stated that Madelia has the Code Red system. Eckerly stated that Czech-Schwandt informed her that Stearns County has a system that the City residents could use for free. Eckerly reported that the Committee had previously looked into both of the systems. The Committee previously contacted the school to see if their system could be utilized but that would only contact residents with students. Czech-Schwandt is to report at the next meeting what Stearns County has to offer.

HOSPITAL & SIREN

Eckerly reported that the hospital's policy is to start evacuation when the tornado siren is sounded. It has been requested that the City contact the nurses' station prior to sounding the siren to inform them why the siren is being sounded. The siren is meant to warn people outside that threatening weather is approaching and to take cover. The siren is not meant for people inside. The hospital has an 800 mhz radio that they could listen to the emergency management channel and hear what is going on. Matthews will check into this further.

XCEL ENERGY – SUBSTATION FENCING

The fencing at the intersection of Lake Ave. and old Hwy. 23 has been partially been removed.

EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN

The hospital has had a number of phone number changes. Eckerly will email Matthews to verify that all changes are made. When complete, a new copy of the Plan will be distributed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – TRANSCRIPTION & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Wegner reported that there are 33 files sitting on the County's website. The County is not waiting on anything from the officers for these records. The Chief is waiting to review them, but doesn't know if they are going to be prosecuted. There is a priority system. If the file is "red" it still takes a couple of days to be processed. The Chief is working through this.

The Department's volunteer is not doing anything with the RMS program. It was noted that the retention schedule needs to be followed when destroying documents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.