

Cass County
Emergency Management Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2023 at 7pm

The meeting was held at the Cass County Emergency Operations Center, 1227 N State Road 17, Logansport, IN 46947 and was called to order by President Ed Schroder.

BOARD PRESENT: Mike Deitrich, Jeff Smith, Tracy Williamson, Gary Chambers, Ed Schroder

STAFF PRESENT: Rocky Buffum

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Meeting minutes were reviewed. Action was not taken due to lack of a quorum.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY/STATE/DISTRICT UPDATES

Staff attended the IDHS District 4 Quarterly Business Meeting last week. Most of the conversation focused on an After Action Report for the March 31/April 1 tornados. Buffum reported it wasn't structured very well.

Cass County received a second shipment from the Indiana Department of Health Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Cache liquidation. If Emergency Management were to purchase these items the cost of what has been received so far would be over \$40,000.00. Some of the items received will be used for training (such as Tyvek suits) or distributed to partner agencies (such as gloves). Most of it has been used to restore and expand the disaster cache that was depleted from the COVID-19 response. There could potentially be a third and final shipment coming.

GRANTS AND BILLING

Monthly grant, billing and non-reverting fund balance report was distributed and reviewed.

We received notice our Koch Community Fund Grant request has been approved. This will provide single gas anhydrous ammonia meters for the remaining fire departments in Cass County that don't already have one. About half already received equipment thru a previous grant awarded by the Andersons.

We spent quite a bit of money the last two months getting the HAZMAT 1 Trailer put together. We are waiting on two items to complete that project. The agency that was going to give us a surplus trailer backed out, so we purchased a new trailer to be HAZMAT 2 and it should be here Monday or Tuesday. HAZMAT 2 will carry the Mass Decontamination equipment, where HAZMAT 1 is more of the spill and leak response trailer.

We have a decent amount of money that should be coming in as receivables. Mr. Stanton was able to get us a \$5,500.00 settlement from a company that didn't pay their bill from last summer. We should be receiving around \$5,600.00 from the Indiana Emergency Response Commission for meeting Local Emergency Planning Committee Requirements. We have an outstanding bill of \$6,750.00 from a recent

response that hasn't been paid. We have received some pushback from the responsible party and have already looped Mr. Stanton into the conversation.

We received two responses to the BRIC Grant Request for Proposal (RFP) for Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Development. Award is anticipated at July meeting. We will need a quorum.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE ACTIVITY

Training hours were down in May as staff focused on completion of the radio installs as top priority. We lost two full weeks to supporting the mobile radio install crews. We did have multiple fire departments utilize us for training on the 800 portable radios. Training report distributed and reviewed.

The training program is starting to fire back up again. June 15 we are hosting Grain Bin Rescue Training at Emergency Management in coordination with the county fire association meeting. July 1 we are bringing in propane training as a full day live fire class. We have 24 of 25 seats filled so far. We have received an interest in bringing in a battery response class and have reached out to a potential funder.

Cass County Amateur Radio Club Field Day activities will be 2pm June 24 to 2pm June 25. This is a competition among groups from across the country. They get points for the number of visitors that come thru, and get extra points for elected officials. Buffum encouraged all to attend who are able.

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY FIRE RADIO PROJECT

The Go Live Date is currently scheduled for Sunday with the 530pm radio test. All portables, mobiles and pagers have been distributed and installed.

ERS is working on a few remaining pager issues. We discovered an issue earlier in the week where the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) had not added a talk group as priority on the Fulton County tower which resulted in a number of Twelve Mile pagers not activating when they did their test. We spoke with IPSC that night and they had it corrected by the next morning. Because of that issue we identified another potential problem with the Winamac tower which would impact Royal Center and Lucerne. We are working with them on that now. ERS is also working to wrap up last minute issues with Galveston and Logansport. We will continue to due the multiple device alert for some time, so anyone with issues will still receive alerts thru VHF equipment and apps for departments that have them.

ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Buffum distributed an attendance summary for EMAC members for 2023. Three members have not been to a meeting in this calendar year. Buffum will reach out to the appointing authorities to see if attendance can be improved or a different representative appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE UPDATES

We are still awaiting action on the Warning Siren Activation Policy update, Travel Advisory Ordinance, Updated Burning Citation Process and a fourth ordinance that updates outdated terminology and IC references in the Cass County Code.

HAZMAT TRAILER

Current delivery is anticipated Monday or Tuesday. Hardware, equipment and decals are ready to go. We should be able to get it done within a few days of receipt.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

EMA has been supporting a number of planning efforts in the community. We assisted the Sheriff's Department with an update for the courthouse emergency plan moving it to the new Emergency Operations Plan format. We worked with the Squeal on the Eel group on preparations and will be supporting them this weekend. We are also working with city parks on a template event organizers can use for festivals and events.

Budgets are due January 30.

CLAIMS REVIEW/APPROVAL

Claims for the month of May were reviewed in the amount of \$13,498.10.

BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Tracy Williamson asked if EMA was involved with the traffic control operation at the fair. Buffum responded no. The county has two traffic control groups that are not affiliated with emergency management or any other government agency. Operational and liability issues were discussed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

NA

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for July 5, 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Deitrich and seconded by Gary Chambers. Duly made motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Rocky Buffum, in absence of the Secretary