

MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, June 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:11

Members in attendance:

Penelope Love, Bruce Curry, Peggy Grant, Richard Taylor, Robert Walker, Garry Kotvasz, Paul Petrie, Bill Missal, David Weisz, Rose Ristovski, Kevin Mowaczyk, David Pastrick, Mark Allen, Nick Cash

Guests in attendance:

Ken Henline, Robert Grady

Pledge was recited.

Introductions were made.

Minutes -

Minutes were reviewed, and Dave Weis made a motion to accept, seconded by Bill Missal, with no discussion; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report –

No expenditures in June, fund balance remains at \$51,088.56. David Weisz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Robert Walker, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Correspondence –

None

Nominations for treasurer

HEPC – No Report

HazMat – The team responded to a helicopter that ended up in Cedar Lake, the investigation is ongoing; Bill had a meeting with the Kankakee River Basin coalition; Bill attended a class at CN's railroad yard in Griffith for locomotives and tank car responses; Bill is setting up a walk-through with Kemira Chlorine; planning training classes starting with Whiting for tank car response, the HazMat team has training equipment and is getting it ready to be deployed for these sessions; Leons Triathlon went well.

HEALTH – The drive-through testing site has been closed. The State of Indiana has a mobile unit for vaccines and testing

CORONER – 790 cases investigated YTD 32 homicides, 39 suicides, 70 overdoses, 24 motor vehicle accidents, three drownings, 25 pending manners of death; the office is busy with ongoing training, they

have attended three training sessions over the past six weeks, tomorrow the staff is attending training on prevention of suicide. The Coroner extended his thanks to Chief Terry, Director Walker, the American Red Cross, and all planners and participants of the Gary Airport exercise.

ARC – Busy month in June, responded to four single-family fires, two multi-family fires, and three transportation or other related disasters; working with Merrillville and the “powers that be” regarding the apartment building situation, the shelter at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center was opened to help alleviate stress for the affected families, one building was in risk of collapse and the evacuation was mandated, the other building had ubiquitous mold and many residents self-evacuated; participated in the Gary airport drill; there are three open employment opportunities with the Merrillville office of the Red Cross with business operations and community engagement; continuing the sound the alarm events.

INDOT – No Report

New Business –Bill Missal discussed the Red Wave vapor identifier that would identify 5,500 gasses, cost of the unit is \$43,000, and the team has \$23,000 and needs \$20,000 to complete the purchase; need an additional RAE for \$18,000; Bill would like to continue to pursue grants for the needed funding. There is still \$30,000 in grant funding available for HazMat training that has to be spent this year. Chief Weisz will send the information out again to the Fire Departments to gauge interest. A question was brought up as to whether to prioritize meters or SCBAs. Bill was asked to come up with a priority list for spending in a spreadsheet and get it back to the group. The group discussed the number and size of SCBAs that may be needed for the team. Director Walker asked Bill to verify if the awarded equipment grants were specifically earmarked for the Red Wave meter, or if the funding could be used for other equipment.

Chief Weisz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Bill Missal with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39

Kevin Nowaczyk, Chair

Paul Petrie, Secretary