

TIPPECANOE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2015

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were Chairman Garry Smith, Commissioner Tracy Brown, Smokey Anderson, Jeff Butz, Dan Marvin, Perry Martin, David Reagan, and Ron Wright. Also present were District IV Coordinator from the Department of Homeland Security Sharon Gerlach, Grant Facilitator Sharon Hutchison, and Recording Secretary Tillie Hennigar. Advisory Council members Dan Duncan and John Basham were absent.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Perry Martin moved to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 regular meeting, second by Ron Wright; motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Smith said some discoveries were made following the last meeting. Motions have been accepted since 2008 to keep the status quo for officers; however, there have been some board member changes and two slots need to be filled. Ron Wright was the Vice Recording Secretary and is now the Vice Chairman; Mike Frances was the Recording Secretary and is no longer on the board.

Smokey Anderson nominated Commissioner Brown as Recording Secretary; Commissioner Brown nominated Dan Marvin as Vice Recording Secretary. As there were no additional nominations, Chairman Smith closed nominations.

- Dave Reagan moved to nominate Commissioner Brown as Recording Secretary and Dan Marvin as Vice Recording Secretary, second by Ron Wright; motion carried.

Chairman Smith welcomed Commissioner Brown as a new member of the Advisory Council.

Commissioner Brown introduced Sharon Hutchison as the replacement for Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson.

DIRECTOR REPORT – Smokey Anderson

Director Anderson stated he had not heard who would replace John Withers. Chairman Smith will contact the Mayor's office.

TEMA Director Anderson reported the following activities since the December 2nd meeting:

- Law Enforcement Chiefs met in the EOC for a tour.
- Worked the Christmas parade – ran by Marty.

- Met with Indigital to discuss 911 back-up phones in the MOC and EOC. Some of the equipment will be installed this Wednesday, 2/11, enabling transfer of 911 calls to the MOC or EOC.
- The State has upgraded their Web EOC program. Smokey and team completed Web EOC training in the local office. Training will be completed with users and first responders.
- Performed a table top drill with Sycamore Springs Mental Hospital and also a reactor table top drill at Purdue.
- Received a State Homeland Security program grant for turn-out gear/bunker gear for the HAZ MAT team. Five sets were received a year ago; this grant will allow 13 more sets. All the current gear is expired.
- Annual Pipeline Training at the Trails – good turnout.
- Met in Logansport with all EMA Directors.
- Continue to move forward with project 25 for the radio system, thanks again to Tracy Brown. The current system is approaching end-of-life. The timing will be perfect with the State; Tippecanoe County is probably a little ahead of the State. The State will be in by December and we hope to do ours before or at the same time so all radios only have to be touched twice instead of four times. An additional repeater site has been added, expanding the system by one frequency.
Assisting IPSC with an inventory of all the agencies radios that touch the State system. Motorola will upgrade our portables and mobiles on the system. There are radios not on the system that have been lost or stolen.
- March 2 – 6 the Task Force will do a service and support mobilization. They will do a check point in another county and then return to the Fairgrounds to set up the equipment and tents in the hog barn for the week. He encouraged the members to visit on the 3rd, 4th, or 5th. The EMA Directors will meet there and anyone else who might want to have a meeting is encouraged to take advantage of the site. Elected Officials will be invited, some Boy Scout troops plan to meet there and the space is large enough to have several tours going on at the same time. Marty and Tyler will be there the entire week. Smokey will send something out to the Council members with a suggested time if they want to meet as a group.
- The HAZ MAT team has not had any call outs since the last meeting. Through Purdue and for Ebola preparedness, almost everyone has been tested and fitted for the N95 mask; several training sessions have also been held.

SIRENS

Director Anderson said due to weather the last scheduled siren test was not performed. For the most part, the sirens are as reliable now as they have ever been. The Commissioners approved maintenance on every siren in the spring; maintenance hasn't been completed since 2008 or 2009. Money was encumbered from last year to take care of half the sirens; the other half will come from this year's budget.

The contract is \$350 per siren for a 15 minute check, replacing parts costing less than \$10. There are 72 sirens including the seven at Purdue. Ron Wright said the alarm systems at Purdue were recently tested but not the sirens. Chairman Smith asked Smokey to review the location of sirens at the next meeting. Director Anderson said a Google map was created indicated the location of all sirens.

The National Weather Service will hold a Spotters Class on February 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

BUDGET

Approximately \$2,000 has been added in 2015 for vehicle maintenance. Marty's vehicle will be updated to a ¾ ton crew cab with topper; eliminating the diesel vehicle. The savings on unleaded fuel versus diesel and repairs on diesel engines will be substantial.

DISTRICT IV COORDINATOR REPORT

Coordinator Gerlach asked if Commissioner Brown would be the new member for the District Planning Oversight Committee (DPOC); Commissioner Brown confirmed he found out yesterday that he is. Coordinator Gerlach said she needs to meet with Commissioner Brown.

Sharon reported on the following:

- The Executive Director David Kane has tasked the District Coordinators with meeting one-on-one with the DPOC members. He seems to be very engaged and has questions regarding the validity of moving forward with the DPOC. With the recent snow, Director Kane was contacting Sharon's counterpart in Lake/LaPorte County on an hourly basis to see if National Guard support was needed or there were other needs. With Director Kane, Sharon believes there might be a more positive awareness level brought to Emergency Management.
- In regard to the EMPG Assessment, there is a draft assessment that has gone out for review and input from a few EMA Directors. It's met with a lot of mixed reviews because it is very simplistic compared to previous assessments. She will have Smokey review it and provide his input. Consideration is being given to do away with the point system and the recommendation is to do an all or nothing system. Some of the EMA Directors prefer it because it is less work; others feel it is less work for the Coordinators. Others feel it has removed some of the challenges they look forward to having. There are ten standards but within the standards, there are more dynamics. The concept behind the assessment is FEMA gives so much to each state to be divided up amongst counties to encourage them to raise the level of awareness and preparedness. Every state has come up with their own way; Indiana came up with the assessment. The assessment is an educational tool broken down by categories, allowing each county to have their own standards.

Dave Reagan asked about the educational programs, such as the CERT program not being funded any longer, saying since they are not being funded, they are dying out. Coordinator Gerlach said she had some recent conversation with the State CERT Coordinator. Unfortunately, some programs were started by the State with the intention of the county continuing. For the CERT program specifically, there was no one overseeing the program for some time. Money has gotten tighter in all programs. Sharon will follow up on the CERT program as White County inquired also. Member Reagan said there are a lot of volunteers who need to stay educated.

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Dave Reagan provided an update about Civil Air Patrol. The local group is a very small but active ground team. They have been activated several times in the last few months. Some of the top young people are on the State Training Team at Camp Atterbury. A new program is starting for aerial photography (AP) and the training may come to Lafayette to certify the local members. One local member will be trained as an instructor this weekend. They do not have an airplane in Lafayette but they do have pilots. Smokey said they used them to fly Tyler and another volunteer for the November, 2013 tornado.

District IV Coordinator Gerlach and Dave Reagan discussed his involvement with Civil Air Patrol. Dave said he was a Commander for several years; had tried to pull away but has started to attend meetings again. Sharon said she had recently been asked to educate herself on Civil Air Patrol and requested meeting with Dave for additional information.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

As there was no old or new business, Ron Wright moved to adjourn, second by Perry Martin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 8:00 a.m.