

2013-01-25 BEMHS Minutes

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

January 24, 2013

Meeting of the BEMHS Commission

The meeting was called to order by Austin Tanner, acting Chairman, at 19:30. Sandy Brodeur was appointed to fill in as a voting member to obtain a quorum of voting members for the meeting.

Present: Lou Brodeur, Tom Rukstella, Austin Tanner, Kevin Filchak (newly appointed to the Commission), Ethan Tinsley (new resident trooper) and Mike Caplet, Planner – DEMHS Region 4

Absent: Dalia Belliveau, Barbara White, Skye Johnson, and Bob Lee

There were no previous minutes available to approve at this meeting.

Because there were no guests available to ask questions or comment, the meeting proceeded to election of officers for year 2013.

Kevin Filchak was elected to serve as Director and Barbara White was elected to serve as secretary.

Meeting dates were discussed and are planned to be held monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 19:00 until further notice.

Because it had been several months since our last meeting, we reviewed the status of prior year projects. Sandy Brodeur brought up the necessity of a meeting with various town departments and agencies (e.g. Fire Departments, Town Crew, CSP, Red Cross) to develop an overall emergency response plan to coordinate the necessary response of all agencies in case of a major disaster in the area. We also discussed briefly emergency shelters and the animal shelter.

We also decided to review and update the Emergency Operations Plan for Brooklyn. Kevin said that he would send copies of sections to members for review prior to each meeting.

Mike Caplet briefly discussed Region 4 projects and initiatives for 2013/2014. The State is working on "Best Practices." For example, they are trying to do reimbursements sooner for grants, etc. They are still developing state-wide type projects that may focus on just one region at a time.

The State is working on a replacement product for WebEOC, which is an official government system for use by authorized members of emergency management/homeland security.

Mike also said that money is available for regional training. Bill Sheehan in Waterford has information about this. The Training Division is also available to provide help concerning training programs. One example would be Public Information Officer training to speak with the press in case of emergencies.

March 7, 2013, there will be a Public Works Fuel Study.

The Red Cross is promoting multi-jurisdictional shelters. Mike suggested that we discuss the possibility of other towns that we could work with in case of large emergencies. Assets such as cots, blankets, commodities, food, pack and plays for babies can be pre-staged. We may also be able to get discounts on generators and other items as needed by working with the Region.

The current budget was briefly reviewed and all members agreed that it should not be changed.

Emergency Management Performance Grant money is available. Tony Scalora, Region 4 Director, can help with the Grants. We should present him with our budget and ask if we can get reimbursed for any of our requirements. The deadline for these Grants is February 22. A resolution by the Selectmen's Office would need to be made at the February 14 meeting.

Other business: Austin said he would call all commission members before the next meeting to be sure that everyone was notified about the meeting date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:52. Our next meeting will be February 21, 2013, at 19:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Brodeur for Barbara White