

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
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AUGUST 10, 2010

Chair Robert Egan called to order the regular meeting of the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, in the Justice Center Conference Room, at the Vilas County Sheriff's Department, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present. The following persons were present: Robert Egan, Jack Harrison, Edward Bluthardt, Emil Bakka, Kathleen Rushlow, Chief Deputy Fath, Captain Butler, Jail Administrator Evenson, Emergency Management Director Galloway, Lieutenant Peske, Harvey Hyslop, Laurel Carlson, and recorder Carol Krebs. Not present and excused was Alden Bauman.

Approve agenda. Emil Bakka made a motion to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair. Motion was seconded by Jack Harrison. All voting aye. Carried.

Approve Minutes. Edward Bluthardt made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2010 committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Jack Harrison. All voting aye. Carried.

Resignations/New Appointments. No report.

Resolution – Creation of Law Records Office Manager, due to the Retirement of a Law Enforcement Clerk. Chief Deputy Fath presented the Resolution for the creation of a Law Records Office Manager, due to the retirement of a Law Enforcement Clerk. He advised the Personnel Committee has reviewed the job description, determined the salary, and approved the Resolution. A motion was made by Emil Bakka, and seconded by Jack Harrison to approve the Resolution, and forward it to the County Board for their consideration. All voting aye. Carried.

Resolution – Hire One Full-time Deputy Sheriff due to a Vacancy. Chief Deputy Fath presented the Resolution to hire one full-time Deputy Sheriff due to a vacancy. A motion was made by Edward Bluthardt, and seconded by Jack Harrison to approve the Resolution, and forward it to the County Board for their consideration. All voting aye. Carried.

Resolution – All Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Grant. Emergency Management Director Galloway presented the Resolution for the all hazards pre-disaster mitigation planning grant. Mr. Galloway advised the committee that Vilas County is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an All Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, and that the County's ability to secure Federal assistance for disaster response and recovery is linked to the County's adoption of the approved plan. A motion was made by Emil Bakka, and seconded by Jack Harrison to approve the Resolution, and forward it to the County Board for their consideration. All voting aye. Carried.

Resolution – Ordinance Amendment Chapter 6 Emergency Management. Emergency Management Director Galloway presented the Resolution to amend Chapter 6 of the Vilas County General Code. A motion was made by Jack Harrison, and seconded by Emil Bakka to approve the Resolution, and forward it to the County Board for their consideration. All voting aye. Carried.

Emergency Management Report. Emergency Management Director Galloway reported on the activities of his department.

Chair Robert Egan read a report to the committee, authored by Lieutenant Gary Peske, detailing the storm related events of July, 29, 2010. In summary, the report stated that on “Tuesday, July 27, 2010, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 12 midnight, a series of severe storms, which may have included a tornado, went through Vilas County.” The Vilas County Sheriff’s Department 911 Center was staffed with two dispatchers, and there were 55 calls for service logged into the records system, during that time frame. The nature of the 55 calls, were as follows:

- 13 calls for power lines down;
- 7 calls for trees blocking the roadway;
- 5 ambulance calls, including 3 ambulances to assist in Iron County;
- 3 national weather advisories;
- 27 other calls for service including: accidents, 911 hang ups, alarms, and welfare checks.

At 7:09 p.m., the National Weather Service issued the first of three severe weather advisories. The first warning indicated the storm could produce golf ball size hail, and winds in excess of 70 mph. The storm would strike the Manitowish Waters and Winchester area at approximately 7:15 p.m., and Lac du Flambeau and Boulder Junction, at 7:30 p.m. Emergency Management Director Galloway was paged immediately to contact the Sheriff’s Dept. Upon receipt of the page, Director Galloway was already in the Eagle River area. He responded to the Sheriff’s Office, and immediately assisted by putting out a CodeRed severe storm warning message. There were only six minutes from the time the National Weather Service issued the warning, before it was due to hit Manitowish Waters and Winchester. Lieutenant Peske wrote in his report, if Emergency Management Director Galloway had not been available, the dispatchers would have had to generate the CodeRed severe weather warning message. In situations like this, the dispatchers are forced to prioritize between the severe weather situation, 911 emergency calls for ambulance services, fire, and law enforcement, and a timely CodeRed warning message for the public (as in this particular case, there were three weather warnings issued, in a four hour period). Since CodeRed is our primary public warning system, I, (Lieutenant Gary Peske), am requesting the County Board to approve adding the enhanced CodeRed service for severe weather warnings.

County Board Supervisor, Kathleen Rushlow was present to discuss CodeRed, and the possibility of adding a severe weather warning option to the County’s current subscription. The cost for adding the severe weather warning option is \$5,000.00 per year, with no limit on the message minutes. CodeRed would auto generate a message, upon receipt of a storm warning from the National Weather Service, and send it to the residents located with the path of the storm warning, that have subscribed to our CodeRed service. The storm related, auto generated messages, would not count toward the County’s total annual allotment of CodeRed message minutes.

Emergency Management Director Galloway advised he would like to add the severe weather warning option, to our 2011 subscription to CodeRed. The additional cost would be \$5,000.00 per year, for a total annual cost of \$15,000.00. The committee discussed the possibility of adding the severe weather option, to the current 2010 subscription. Director Galloway advised we could do this, and CodeRed would prorate the \$5,000.00 fee. There isn't any money left in the 2010 CodeRed expense line, therefore we would need to determine where the money would come from.

County Board Supervisor, Kathleen Rushlow advised she would put this on the August Finance Committee meeting agenda to see what options the County has for funding the severe weather option.

Communication Project Update. Lieutenant Peske updated the committee on the Communications Project.

Equipment Purchases "Sheriff." Emergency Management Director Galloway presented a purchase order from EF Johnson Technologies, to purchase 2 command radios, which are compatible with the Wiscom System. The total cost for the two radios is \$7,900.00, and will be paid from the Law Enforcement Command Radio Grant. Motion by Jack Harrison, and seconded by Emil Bakka to approve the radio purchase, subject to the approval of the Public Property Committee. All voting aye. Carried.

Equipment Purchases "Jail." None.

Review Budget. The committee reviewed the department budget. A motion was made by Edward Bluthardt, and seconded by Jack Harrison to approve the budget report as presented. All voting aye. Carried.

Letters and Communications. Chief Deputy Fath shared a letter that Sheriff Niebuhr received from Pat Larson, in Arbor Vitae, thanking him for providing the CodeRed severe weather warnings on the night of July 27, 2010.

Approval of bills. A motion was by Jack Harrison to approve the bills. Motion was seconded by Edward Bluthardt. All voting aye. Carried.

Future Meeting Date. The next meeting is scheduled for: Friday, September 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., in the Justice Center Conference room.

Adjournment. Motion by Edward Bluthardt, and seconded by Jack Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. All voting aye. Carried.

Submitted by:

Carol A. Krebs, Confidential Secretary