

Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee meeting
March 2, 2017
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.
Present: Noel Waite, Fire/EMS/EMD; Mike Dombkowski, CVFA; Mark Palmer, Police Department; Rick Landry, NCVFD; Ray Eldridge, NCVFD; Andy Brodersen, Town Council; Julie Blanchard, Town Council; John Elsesser, Town Manager; Laura Stone, Town Manager's office.
2. **Audience of Citizens:** none.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Ray Eldridge moved to accept the minutes of the Local Emergency Coordinating Committee meeting on February 2, 2017. The motion was seconded by Rick Landry and carried on unanimous vote.

4. **Agency updates:**

NCVFD – Ray Eldridge/Rick Landry:

- Rescue 111 needs service again. It has been a nightmare. It was supposed to go out yesterday but we couldn't get into the shop so we are hoping for Monday. There are two recalls, a new light tower and a couple things we are hoping will be corrected under warranty. It will be out several weeks. The supply rail work alone is 40 hours' worth of work.
- The Quint is waiting on graphics, then we should be good to go. We hope to get it next week. We have to do final lighting on the aerial walkway. Once we receive it there is minor work to be done at DPW, then we should be able to start training. We have two past members who will come in and do that in-house.
- Solar is up and running 100%. We got a report from last month which looked pretty good given that it was a winter month.
- The phone system switched over and is up and running. The fax lines are still analog – we need to get out of the old system. Once we do that we will be 100% on it - no problems so far.

Police Department – Mark Palmer:

- We received 163 applicants for the open position. We interviewed 22 candidates and selected seven for a second round. Chief Palmer interviewed all seven and has made a conditional offer of employment contingent upon passing the rest of the background screening process. We have an Academy seat for 4/7.
- Officer Beausoleil is doing well in the Academy. Sgt. Opdenbrouw went up to observe.
- Chief Palmer is working on budget.
- Officer Dexter was formally accepted as a member of the Capitol Region Emergency Services team. He will be going to SWAT school for two weeks in April.

CVFA – Mike Dombkowski: No report.

Fire/EMS/EMD – Noel Waite:

- We finally received state certification of the PSA and ambulance license. We will proceed with the new billing contractor. Ambulances are being re-lettered. The State inspection was done today. An older ambulance #508 didn't pass the on-board suction test in back – the level desired was 300 and we had 250. It will be picked up for repair tomorrow and re-inspected next week. DPW needs to do a quick inspection on the lights and then we will go to Motor Vehicles for changes to registrations. John Elsesser said we got the first of the federal paperwork for the Medicare license. There are two pieces left to complete. We can't bill for Medicaid right now but insurance companies are up and running for billing. It is moving faster than anticipated. We need paramedic contracts and ambulance registrations. We believe all paperwork will be in process next week awaiting final actions. This has been a lot of work by Noel and CVFA. We appreciate everyone's efforts.
- Geoff had requested if people are going to MD to send them in the mini-van – Noel is not comfortable sending it that far.
- Station 11 is having an issue with their front lights. We sent an electrician but they are out again. The light bulbs are coming unscrewed inside the glass cover. We will keep an eye on it.
- At the last Fire Board meeting we presented a new directive for an after-hours ambulance staffing pay schedule. It went into effect 3/1. We will not exceed \$75 per call. He suggests anyone who wants to be on a duty crew sign up for it. Hopefully this will encourage more participation. This is open to both departments as well as those who are willing to drive but not be part of either fire association.
- CNG sent out an annual invitation for class testing for truck emergency response. We will also combine it with natural gas training.
- Next Thursday the Town Hall, the Annex and School Admin buildings will be tied in to natural gas. Rick Landry requested CAD notification for all connected buildings including residential. Noel said we hope the fire house and police systems will be changed out in April. John said the high school/middle school will be done over April vacation.

Town Manager – John Elsesser:

- We were notified last week that Verizon wants to put up a cell phone tower at Skungamaug Golf Course – a meeting with PZC was tentatively set up for 3/27 – we may move that because PZC switched meeting rooms with the Council that night. Some citizens are upset so there might be a large turnout. There is a communications hole in that area. Verizon is willing to allow the town to tie on if we need it for communications. They will install our equipment without charge. They ran a balloon test on Monday, but it was already down when we went by. Photos are available. We don't anticipate any reason the Siting Council won't accept the tower unless it is demonstrated that it is not needed. We will have to decide fairly quickly if we have a radio need for that tower. Ray Eldridge noted that we do have a dead spot on Cedar Swamp.
- The Budget Hearing is 3/9. We gave the Council a budget with a little over a 5 mil increase, a 16.1% increase for the average household. There is a .9 increase on cars due to the mil rate cap. Most of the increase is due to the Governor's budget, which cuts education aid, reduces excess cost and transfers the teacher

pension obligation to us. We have never been in this type of situation before. It is hard to guess what is real. The Manager's budget is available in hard copy at the Town Clerk's office and online under the Finance Dept.

- The Lake gate has made significant process. Concrete is poured, and backfilling is done. We will be opening up the channel and installing the downstream pipe soon. Then the finish work will be done. Some grading work will wait until it gets warmer. There is drone footage of the project on the Manager's Facebook page, watch it on a desktop computer because it is too big for a mobile device.
- Our top candidate for Finance Director has accepted the position and will start on 4/3. There is a farewell breakfast for Beth Bauer on 3/17. All are welcome to join us.

Administration – Laura Stone: Laura is working on the spring newsletter to be in homes prior to the Annual Town Meeting on 4/22. The April e-blast will go out on 3/27 – content is due by 3/15.

5. Other Business:

- John Elsesser asked for an update on the tanker truck. In line. Rick Landry said the chassis is being built. John also inquired about the air compressor. Noel Waite replied it is supposed to be here in March. Parts are on order and they should be out to do it in the next two weeks.
- Mike Dombkowski said that the state tanker training is at the end of the month. There are 24 seats and we are filling 15.
- Lots of trees came down in the wind today. Mark Palmer wanted to check with Bill Trudelle about the email server being connected to a generator. The battery to the core switch died and it affected the Police Department.
- Mark Palmer got an invitation to participate in a community law enforcement forum at UConn. He told them to contact UConn PD first but he will update the Town Manager if he attends.
- Julie Blanchard asked if there will be another opioid event as a follow-up to the forum. John Elsesser said that next steps are being evaluated by Eastern Highlands Health District, but they are fighting for survival right now with the State proposal to consolidate into regional health districts. It is supposed to save money but we are skeptical. We would no longer be able to select our health director or have representation on the board. It is creating a larger bureaucracy. Local property taxes will subsidize State agencies and we are not interested in that. We want more say. EHHD is working to finish an opioid resource directory on where to go to get help.
- John Elsesser is now Chairman of the State E911 Commission.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM on a motion by Mark Palmer, seconded by Rick Landry and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stone