

Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee Meeting
March 3, 2016
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM.
Present: Bud Meyers, President, NCVFD; Ray Eldridge, Chief, NCVFD; Mark Palmer, Police Chief; Andy Brodersen, Town Council; John Elsesser, Town Manager; Noel Waite, Fire/EMS Administrator; Dennis Dittrich, President, CVFA; Geoff Firth, Chief, CVFA; Bill Trudelle, Coventry Public Schools; Julie Blanchard, Town Council; Mark Kiefer, Public Works Director; Laura Stone, Executive Assistant to Town Manager.
2. **Audience of Citizens:** none.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Noel Waite moved to accept the minutes of the committee meeting on February 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mark Palmer and carried on unanimous vote.
4. **Agency Updates:**

Police Department – Mark Palmer:

- We are looking at different options for Police dispatch. We met with TN but haven't heard back. He sent an email to follow up. They are bringing it to their board and he offered to have someone there to participate. They accepted. Another proposed bill this year is to have combined dispatch mandated to towns under 40,000. The date by which they would need to be combined is 7/1/18 so we still have some time if it passes. We might be considered a combined dispatch already but it is not the best option.
- We are doing school security reviews of the CIRMA audit. Robertson and Coventry Grammar School are done. The High School and Middle School will be done in April. It is going well.
- Major construction projects coming up, especially on Rt. 31. We had a meeting to coordinate traffic direction. They prefer to have police officers because of the nature of the work. We are not confident we can commit to having officers there every day so we are working on an agreement.
- Mark made a presentation in February at the Old State House to the White House National Office of Drug Control Policy Director, the US Attorney and few other folks about heroin abuse throughout the state. A CRCOG presentation will take place on the 16th.
- We are busy getting ready for accreditation. The onsite audit will take place 4/4-7. There is an opportunity for staff to speak. He will send information.

NCVFD – Ray Eldridge/Bud Meyers:

- We are having ongoing issues with Rescue 111. There was a recall for the power steering fluid. They sent a notice saying it may cause an accident. We took it out of service for two weeks and there was no remedy until we called and complained. A temporary measure is done but it will have to go out again. There is also a problem with the light tower. One of the lights keeps blowing out. It is out for repair. A ballast or something is wrong. They should get it back to us in a week.
- We had a meeting with Manchester Hospital, and Narcan for first responders will become mandatory. Noel said there is a proposed bill for all R1 responders to carry it. He thinks it will be modified but we will have to buy more, train people and have it on vehicles. Mark Palmer noted the price has been increasing steadily. We just found out that the State

Attorney General threatened to file suit against the manufacturer. They came to an agreement on rebates of up to \$6 per dose. If you plan on buying it within the next year you will get a rebate. It is \$44/dose. Noel said another issue is because the use is increasing the manufacturer is manufacturing quickly and people are finding broken vials, empty vials etc. in their shipments. When you get your shipments you might want to check them. You will have to be vigilant. Ray said training is being done in April.

- During the cold snap in February our air handling unit froze and put water into the mechanical area. It leaked down walls, ceiling tiles, etc. The unit is fixed and we are in the process of replacing tiles and repainting walls. Noel said instead of going through insurance one of our members has volunteered to fix it. It will be less than the deductible.
- The Department has signed up for the Workforce Solutions program. They are having a Recruitment Day on 4/9 and we are participating with an Open House from 10 AM – 2 PM. They will do all the advertising. We will do local promotion including the Town e-blast, our signage board, Facebook, etc.

Public Works – Mark Kiefer:

- Winter is not quite ready to let go. A little snow is forecasted tomorrow, with 65 degree temperatures next week. We are still cleaning up from last week's wind storm. We are pretty busy with weather related cleanup.
- When we are not doing emergency work we will be on Rails to Trails, the 2nd phase of tree removal at Miller Richardson, and additional field work to get ready for baseball opening day. At Laidlaw we are still working with the contractor to get the playscape installed before spring.
- We are getting contractors lined up for spring. Asphalt plants are opening 4/2. The second phase of Village work will be out to bid soon. Mt. Ridge work begins in April. John asked if there are frost heaves there. Mark said there are some residual ones from areas that never settled. Surface water is getting into the large cracks. When we think we have the water controlled we will move forward with reclamation. North School Road was closed briefly as it became impassable. It is open again. John believes we might be getting another grant for pocket park at Depot Road dam. Have to finish first part because issue was raised that we didn't finish.

CVFA – Geoff Firth/Dennis Dittrich:

- There were a total of 109 calls for February.
- ET 308 needed four new tires. The work was done by the Town garage.
- We are also doing the open house on April 9.
- The first week of Vintech staffing went very well. We had all 3 ambulances out yesterday on a non-Vintech day. A lot of people are spending time at the firehouse during the day which is great – it is giving the high-volume people a break. Noel said we got compliments from Med Control regarding the professionalism of staff. They had noticed and said it looked very good. John said we can see from the office – he heard an alarm and saw the ambulance leave in 30 seconds. He thinks response times may round down. Geoff said the Vintech rule is they have to be out in 30 seconds.
- We took in a lot of new members this week. Many are already EMTs. They are UConn students. It is a good help but not a long-term fix.
- We are getting the fiber unit checked – that will be good because we are still having a difficult time. The firewall is causing a problem with speed.

Administration – Laura Stone:

- The deadline for the spring newsletter is March 11th.

Fire/Ems – Noel Waite:

- The Rt. 31 project is starting. A pre-blast survey will be done down there next Wednesday.
- If you haven't noticed we have a 1000 gallon propane tank out back – it will be piped in for the new heating system. DPW put in ballasts to protect it from vehicle impact. This is temporary until long-term decisions regarding heating are made.
- The EMPG grant filing was accepted and approved. It goes toward the EMD salary.
- Station 11, in front where the two parking spaces are is muddy. Can we get it hogged out and millings put in? Mark Kiefer will look at it. We need to keep millings but maybe can put some process in.
- At the EMS meeting today, we discussed going from EPI pens to syringe doses for EMTs. It is a lot cheaper. EPI pen kits are \$300. Needles are \$18-20. Ray said they are waiting for protocols to go through – it should be in July. Noel said re-training will be needed. The State is looking for ways to reduce costs. This would be a plus for us.
- UConn will be coming across Rt. 275. They were notified in January. Ray said the guys on the floor were not told. UConn's tower truck was told not to come over when the bridge was being rebuilt and then the structural load was unclear to them. They can and will be coming across bridge.

Coventry Public Schools – Bill Trudelle:

- The schools had a couple fire alarms last month. One was a Panini press that had oil on it. There was good response – thanks for that. Regarding the pull station in one of labs – we hit it but didn't pull. There was some miscommunication but once it toned out the response was right there.
- We had a water line break out in the warehouse. He was unaware we feed town hall or he would have called. The break is resolved.

Town Manager – John Elsesser:

- Town Hall HVAC issues: We lost the heating coil in the attic which flooded 3 floors in the building. Two weeks later the boiler cracked. We had almost finished the heating coil renovation work when the boiler went. The Town Council authorized funds to get the boiler fixed. We will know tomorrow but believe a lot of it will be covered by insurance. The new system will be dual boilers, propane, and more efficient. A lot of work is going on to install pipes, pumps, chimney venting, etc. We are hoping for completion on Monday/Tuesday. We are renting a forced air trailer to keep the building heated. We leave it on overnight and turn it off during the day. The first unit they brought was smoking a lot. We swapped it out and it is doing better. We did asbestos removal over the weekend. Carpet tile goes back in Friday and floor tile after that so hopefully by the end of next week everything will be complete.
- Solar at North Coventry Fire: the plans approved. We await a start date. We keep bugging them. It is smaller than most of their projects so he doesn't want to bother them too much. We are still within grant deadlines. They paid for engineering design work.
- The Main St. project is going to be big. It will be confusing because we are also going out for the Lake/Cross St. project. We don't want to start that until school is out. There will be interactions between two. We bartered the use of a plot on Stonehouse for staging of materials.

- We are bringing sewer, water and electric to Tracy Shoddy Mill. Next week looks like a good week to pour the concrete slab. Wetlands is looking at permit to do some re-grading around the front edge.
- We are working with BSC Design for the sidewalk project. We got a change order to extend the sidewalk to the Library. Period lighting, a city clock and pocket park are going in where the road is moving away, as well as a gazebo. Todd has an encroachment permit for the sidewalk from the Middle school to the intersection of Ripley Hill – and maybe around the corner.
- Another tax sale is coming up in May. The Manager’s Budget Hearing 3/10 in the lecture hall at CHS.
- There is a special meeting on 3/21 at 9 AM for businesses on Main Street to hear about the Main Street project – including plans for traffic control, construction, etc. Information will be distributed next week. It will be disruptive for businesses but we are going to try to do the best we can. Paul Carl is the project engineer. Tectron will be the primary inspection firm. Red Technologies is the contractor.
- We are talking to the Council next week about a construction inspector position for Lake/Cross. The grant covers it.
- A list of road work is up on the web.
- CNG made an offer to the Town to subsidize installation of natural gas from Mansfield Depot to the Town complex. They will subsidize \$1.1 million if the Town contributes. They need an answer by April. It is a good opportunity - people have been asking for natural gas for years. Initial numbers at the school look like a 40% reduction. Mechanical Maintenance is trying to get conversion numbers for Town facilities including police and the firehouse. Bill said he is working with them on the school complex. There are lots of questions and we are running as fast as we can to get answers. John said the Town of Hebron has a similar offer but they are running into a stumbling block because they have a regional school and two towns don't want it. We also plan to talk with E. Hampton who did it last year. We are looking into other issues such as the need for a town meeting, P&Z, etc. The projection for savings vs. oil is low but oil is starting to go up again. We have a full plate. The Council is in the midst of budget so it is burden for them to make a decision right now. There are people who oppose it – they believe natural gas pollutes the environment due to fracking, methane leakage, etc. and that we should go to geothermal (which is generated by natural gas).
- ZIKA virus: The Health District has talked about this issue a little bit. A lot of people think we don't have anything to worry about. It is not the same breed of mosquito as West Nile but Tiger Mosquitos in Greenwich are able to carry that virus and that is not too far from here. If it gets slightly warmer they may migrate. State labs have the ability to test for it and will begin. There is no vaccine at this point – that is about 5-6 years away. It is clearly not just transmitted by bites – it can also be sexually transmitted. Health Departments are still figuring out issues related to childhood deformities. The virus has been around a long time but has been spreading fast over the past two years. For a normal person the symptoms are mild and go away in a couple days. Some people get more serious symptoms. The State is gearing up for a prevention plan. We may have to start a standing water campaign.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM on a motion by Mark Palmer, seconded by Geoff Firth and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Stone