

Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee
June 2, 2016
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.
Present: Noel Waite, Mark Kiefer, Geoff Firth, Ray Eldridge, Mark Palmer, Andy Brodersen, John Elsesser
Also present: Mary Cycenas, CoventryFest

2. **CoventryFest logistics:**
A site visit is set for June 24th at noon. Noel will follow up on the fireworks permit. Everything else is all set. Food vendors are getting their own permits. There is one new vendor - Bear's Smokehouse. Mark Kiefer will evaluate the shoot zone for mowing with the rail mower. The road is good. John said we might also need to check for a backflow preventer on the shed. Noel will make arrangements for flood lights and the trailer. Mark will take a look at the new solar lights to see if they will interfere with the fireworks show. Maybe Tim Ackert can help. They need to be on at the end of the night. Mark Palmer will check for available traffic cones. We may want to barricade the cemetery. He will also get tow zone signs if needed. Public works will handle no parking signs. John asked if the variable message sign is wanted for the shuttle parking area. Mark Cycenas said yes. John noted there will be some construction aspects – it shouldn't be bad but Lake/Cross has temporary paving. In the event of a weather cancellation Mark C. will call Noel.

3. **Agency reports:**
Police Department, Mark Palmer:
 - We have 78 applicants for the police officer position. There are two positions now – Officer Samsel is leaving to retire. Officer McDonnell is leaving in Sept. The deadline to apply is 6/24.
 - Officer Carpenter graduates 6/20.
 - We got State grant funding to upgrade our body cameras. There is a better version with a 12-hour battery that lasts the entire shift, better video quality, and a 95-degree angle of recording.
 - There was a fatal crash in front of Save & Go. Our officers were there in 20 seconds but the victim died at the scene. Investigation is continuing. The family members were grateful for the way the scene was handled and asked us to share their thanks.
 - The police boat is in the water. Mark Kiefer noted the dock was finished today.
NCVFD – Ray Eldridge:
 - On Sunday Rescue 111 will be at Renschler Field for the Autism Walk from 8 - 12. We are still seeking a permanent fix for the steering problem. The temporary fix is causing a problem for the engine because the clutch fan is on all the time. We are asking for an additional warrantee. We are waiting for that. We have been fighting with them and they still say they can't come up with a permanent fix and it seems to be a simple bracket. This truck has been a hassle since we got it.
 - All of the trucks passed the annual pump test. One valve is leaking on Rescue 1.

CVFA – Geoff Firth:

- ET 208 is overheating. It could be the radiator needs to be flushed. The pumps are good. Noel Waite noted that yearly testing and service has been done on all vehicles.

Public Works – Mark Kiefer:

- Mountain Ridge road work is done. We are proud of the project, which was completed in six weeks. Grass is growing and people are happy. It should be a good road for a long time in the future. When all the signage is done we might want to put an officer at Riverview. People are flying through there. Mark will let Chief Palmer know when the signage is ready. Geoff noted that brush is impacting the sight line for the stop sign coming out of Riverview onto Merrow.
- Village drainage work is done. Reclamation will take place the 3rd week in June with paving mid-July. Next week the crew will do chip seal prep for August. We had a good month during May. We are hoping for good weather the rest of the summer. John said our long-term goal is to make the lake loop better with a variety of projects. Mark noted he is not happy with how the Daly Road chip seal held up. He is working with the contractor to resolve it.
- We were notified of a claim for a downed tree on Daly Road. A lot of trees are coming down. We are looking at ash trees but it's not just ash trees. We are going to have to spend money on trees in the future. Ash trees are in trouble and we may not have them in the future unless a blight resistant strain is developed. A lot of them are in the right of way. Eversource has been helpful – they may remove trees that could impact their wires. The new statute from PURA isn't helping us. The tree used to have to originate on town property. Now even branches are a liability. We are considering going out to bid for a tree crew but we don't have them on standby for more rapid response. In the case of a lawsuit we don't know for certain whether it is a town tree. We need to talk about a 5-year tree removal plan.

Fire/EMS Administrator – Noel Waite:

- There will be an Info-shred day on 6/18 at North Coventry Fire Station from 9 AM - 12 noon. Flyers will be distributed.
- Vintech staffing for ambulance will start on Wednesdays June 8th. That puts us at 4 days a week and then 5 days starting July 1st. John noted that CVFA requested us to start increasing staffing early because they couldn't fill Wednesdays.
- The regional trailer that we will store is being lettered and will be here soon.
- OEMS got notice of public Act 16-43, which stipulates no later than October 1st each municipality shall their amend emergency services plan. We sent our update in already and will now need to amend it. First responders must be equipped with an opioid antagonist and trained in its use. This could be interpreted to mean any R1 responder but it was clarified that it is the provider. Both departments are carrying. The Suburbans and rescue trucks have it. We will amend our plan for the PSA change anyway. We got a call back from OEMS regarding the PSA – it was not good news. It is under review and we hope to get a date for a hearing next week. That may be by the end of June and there is still a 15-day waiting period. As of now the PSA changeover will not be July 1st - we will stay as is until we get an MOU. Once we get it we can do the lettering on the ambulances. They have to come and inspect again and we have 6 months from

that time to get them re-lettered. We can proceed with all other aspects of the transition but the PSA license will still be CVFA. John noted we will have to coordinate Medicaid aspects.

- We are having a meeting to finalize selection of the ambulance billing agency. Bids ranged from 4.5% to 7.5%, down from 9%.
- The truck committee found a Quint in Rocky Hill. We are looking at it next week with the town mechanic. Rocky Hill has two full time mechanics and has records from the time of purchase. It has all the specs we would want. It is 105 feet. It has water, a decent size engine and a tighter turn ratio. The price is a lot lower which might let us shift money to the tanker. Rocky Hill is only getting rid of it because they have a 4-year replacement plan. We got a price to address the minor repairs – the ladder was just tested. We anticipate being able to purchase it for \$200,000 – which is a substantial savings from what was estimated. John said they are looking for a letter of intent to hold it for us. It would not be available until October/November. If the inspection goes well we will approach the Town Council for authorization.
- End of fiscal year figures for points are due to Noel by the end of next week. John noted we are shutting down our fiscal year. Finance will be short-staffed so the sooner you submit this information the better.

Town Manager – John Elsesser:

- We are finishing up paperwork on the CNG natural gas extension project. A company offered to bring a fuel cell free of charge for the high school which would eliminate the fees we would have to pay CNG. We did some research and it is too big for us. The smallest one is 400,000 kW and combined we are only 150,000 kW. We would be totally off the grid - generating our own electricity and paying through a power purchase agreement. It doesn't work for us but it was worth exploring as it could have saved us money and been the first step toward a microgrid. They are coming out with a smaller product and will keep us in mind for a demo project. This would have required action by June 15th. The building committee engineer is working on plans for conversion of the high school/middle school boilers. Hebron backed out so they have two crews available for us. Mark Kiefer noted they will do a temporary road patch.
- The State budget came through and we are short \$331,000. The Council says not to spend the capital budget yet until we talk it through. We think we have offsetting revenue.
- We got a complaint about the truck accident in front of the gas station, wanting to know why it was publicized. We don't go out of our way to publish these things but there is an app that monitors accidents and many news stations monitor them. That is out of our control. There are times when it is appropriate to inform the public of a road closing, but not in every instance.
- We just received a grant for horizontal curve signs – there up to 70 locations in rural road areas. It doesn't include Nathan Hale forest because that is considered an urban area. DOT asked us for a list - we applied in April 2015 and just got information back that they are proceeding. They are hiring an engineer and putting the project out to bid for probable installation in the fall of 2017. It will help us but it is an expensive project. Only 10 towns in the state are getting it.
- The Farmers Market is starting up for the season on Sunday. They are planning to open rain or shine. It is under new leadership and there are some changes. There will be more handwashing stations, and no farm animals at the request of

the Health Department as a result of the issue at the goat farm in Lebanon. The parking pattern will be changed to get cars off South Street sooner with less crossing. Mark Palmer said our officers will be there to assist as well as trained flaggers.

4. **Pipeline safety exercise:**

John noted the location was changed for this event as there was a fire at Wright's Mill Farm. There is still time to register. The date is May 22. There is a big issue in Andover - they are proposing an infusion station where Scott's Tree Farm is. This would consist of 16 tanker trucks of natural gas, injecting gas into the pipeline 24 hours a day in the winter. Rt. 6 will have a lot of trucks. It will generate a lot of revenue for Andover. Noel noted there is a lot of opposition. John said Bolton is looking at doing 11 miles of pipeline next year to get from Hebron to Manchester. They have a lot of commercial users.

5. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stone