

Cass County EMA Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Herb Bowman.

PRESENT: Alvin Beckman, Liz Troxell, Herb Detrick, Herb Bowman, Shawn Durham, Tom Heflin, Phil Rains, Randy Pryor, Mark Strong, Rocky Buffum

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion duly made and seconded

**OLD BUSINESS**

GRANTS: We have two grant awards we are completing documentation for so we can begin spending.

DISTRICT 4: There is a meeting December 19<sup>th</sup> and an EMA Director meeting next Thursday. The district is considering EverBridge for a task force notification system. The old system has been changed and is no longer functional for district needs.

NIMS: No updates

NEW VEHICLE: Keith Fox will send an invoice to the auditor's office so funds can be encumbered from 2013 and it will not come out of the 2014 budget. December 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day to submit claims for this year and those claims will be paid on January 20<sup>th</sup>. We may have possession of the new vehicle in 2-3 weeks. Alvin has a quote from Gary Armstrong to move emergency lights and siren from the current vehicle to the new vehicle and apply decals when it arrives.

RADIO REBANDING: Alvin reports re-banding is 99% done with six or seven radios remaining to be redone. Shawn Durham from Galveston Police reported since the update his department has had problems with chronic site trunking. Sheriff Pryor indicated radio gridlock was a problem during the November 17<sup>th</sup> severe weather incident. Alvin reported the radio system is a state system and the problem was statewide not just Cass County. Alvin reports when there is a lot of statewide activity the system fails every time. Alvin informed the board EMA's old frequency and equipment (UHF) have been rebanded and can be used as a backup however range for a narrow banded portable is only about 6 miles and when radios are narrow banded again next year it will be reduced further.

APPOINTMENTS: Alvin has appointment documents back from the Town of Galveston and City of Logansport. He is aware of others that have been signed but not yet returned.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> TORNADOES: The National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes in Cass County. On November 17<sup>th</sup> three tornado warnings were issued by NWS and sirens sounded for about 30 minutes. Tornadoes were also confirmed in neighboring counties.

WARNING SIREN ISSUES: The sirens at Yorktown/Lexington Road and Melbourne Park did not activate.

There were some questions about siren activation in the Galveston area. Galveston's siren is from 1947 or 1957 and is activated manually by fire station personnel. Alvin has offered a meeting with the Town Council, Galveston Police and Galveston Fire to help resolve any questions and ensure warning is provided when needed.

The siren in Young America has been tampered with. Someone has disconnected the co axle that enables dispatch to activate the siren remotely. Alvin has attempted to make contact with the Young America Fire Chief to discuss the issue. Alvin reports he received a voice mail from a community member indicating he knows who is responsible and that he would contact the State Police if the situation is not resolved. Tom Heflin indicated he could look into the matter. Alvin reported the Young America Siren was purchased and installed by the county, not the Town of Young America.

**BUILDING INSULATION PROJECT:** Alvin would like to install insulation in the front and back garages to help reduce heat loss and lower utility bills. Richard Gundram has been asked for a quote.

**COOP PROJECT:** Part of next year's EMPG Assessment will be Continuity of Operations Planning. Rocky Buffum attended training offered by FEMA in August and will be attending another course in January to help with this project. COOP planning will need to be done for the county, City of Logansport and incorporated towns.

**RECENT EVENTS:** The Debris Management Class was a success.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Ivy Tech Logansport will be the site for National Weather Service Severe Weather Training on February 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a centralized offering for a five county area.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims were approved in the amount of \$4,490.28 on a motion duly made and seconded.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** The EMA Christmas party will be Saturday at 530PM.

The next meeting of the EMA Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Buffum  
EMAC Secretary