



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

3:00 PM

Police Department Conference Room
250 Cypress Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Member Peters called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Turner sat in for Committee Member Deitz

Present: 4 - Lindy Peters, Dave Turner, Fabian Lizarraga and Debbie Desmond

Absent: 3 - Scott Deitz, Linda Ruffing and Tom Varga

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of June 10, 2015 Meeting

A motion was made by Committee Member Turner, seconded by Committee Member Peters, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None Received

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Review Emergency Preparedness Plan with the Committee and Chief Lizarraga

Public comment on this item was received from: Elaine Ball

The following was noted during discussion of this item:

- The most recent complete Emergency Preparedness Plan is dated March 2010. There is a 2013 version that is more condensed and hits all of the key points. The 2013 version needs to be dusted off, completed, and adopted. The 2010 version will need to be reviewed to see what should be included in the newer version that perhaps isn't there already.
- The 2010 version does not discuss what situations could arise as a result of the Internet and the possibility cell phones going down. There are likely other technological issues that may not have been addressed at that time that need to be included in the newer 2013 version of the plan.
- The 2014 Mendocino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is another document that goes along with the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan. This will be placed on the City Council's pending list as they have until December 29, 2015 to adopt it.
- Sage at Mendocino Community Network (mcn) was working on getting the AT&T fiber optic

that runs down the coast, operational. The committee could follow up with Sage and find out if it is buried underground. The City's Internet and 911 functionality is dependent on this cable.

- The P.D. will have a mobile base station soon to improve communication if the WiFi or cell phones go down.
- Most people seem to be more concerned about an earthquake or tsunami as far as big natural disasters. The plan should include engaging volunteers and citizens to do things like traffic control and other things they can help with during the initial disaster and also in the days and weeks that follow.
- Land lines were used during the recent power outage as the cell towers were down. Radios were helpful for communication also. Communication is vital in a disaster situation. The Fire Department will soon be placing a repeater on Bald Hill like the P.D. has, which should solve many of the communication problems they have been having.
- The tsunami sirens are up and functional. Citizens at the Pudding Creek trailer park are still saying they can't hear the siren. More sirens are available and Chief Orsi is looking into putting an additional siren in at Pudding Creek. It is possible that a siren could also be placed on Waste Management property to be heard in the Pudding Creek area. The tsunami sirens are tested at least once a month.
- Chief Orsi explained that the City is actually in fairly good shape as far as the likelihood of a tsunami. He believes we are pretty safe. An earthquake is most likely more probable than a tsunami.
- In a major natural disaster the City is very likely going to be on our own as it won't take much to close us off from other nearby communities. This is why we need to make sure we are prepared to survive without outside help for a period of time. Under these circumstances, some things might be able to be brought in with helicopters.

Chief Lizarraga will complete his review of the 2013 Emergency Operations Plan and get input from the Committee Members and Chief Orsi before providing it to City Council.

2. Receive Update on Emergency Operations Center Upgrade Project

Public comment on this item was received from: Malcom Macdonald and Elaine Ball.

The following was noted during discussion of this item:

- Chief Lizarraga and Lt. Gilchrist looked at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at Ukiah Police Department to get an idea of what Fort Bragg's Police Department still needs to do. Gilchrist is formulating a plan and is deciding if we want supplies in cubbies or boxes and other logistics of getting everything that we need set up in the EOC. The new tables have been received. They are the same size as the current table but can be broken down into 4-6 different stations. They are nesting tables that fold up for easy, space saving storage.
- In a few weeks the Police Chief is going to schedule some extra people to come in and do a set up exercise to see how the EOC might look after it is set up and all of the stations are in place. The Chief has decided to keep the large table that is currently in the EOC which can be pushed up against a wall and provide ample workspace for at least four or five departments. The set up exercise will help us decide how to optimize the work stations and see what kind of work centers we can create.
- Orsi suggested having a large aerial grid of the City streets and satellite maps available. If they were laminated they could be written on with dry erase markers and kept updated. The Police Department is already looking into that.
- Lizarraga mentioned that currently the EOC does not have a supply of food but it does have water. Orsi suggested perhaps obtaining some of the new freeze dried foods that are available that last 20-25 years.

- One of the branches of the ICS (Incident Command System) is Logistics. They are the group that obtains food and other necessary supplies for the officers and others who are responding to the emergency. We would have the cooperation of our local grocery stores as long as they are available. They know they will be paid for any supplies eventually.
- Tom Varga, the City Public Works Director, is working on an emergency fuel storage area at the Public Works Corp Yard. In an emergency, Eel River Fuels has committed to bringing a fuel truck directly to the Fire Department if necessary.
- Our recent storms and power outages give us some idea of what the City might be dealing with during an emergency. PG&E set up a base station during the last power outage, which was helpful.

Mayor Turner asked Chief Lizarraga to let the Council know when the Police Department's dry run for the Emergency Operations Center will take place.

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

- Chief Lizarraga gave the Committee an update on the 4th of July activities. Sergeant Kendl wrote the Operations Plan for the event and all officers worked on the 4th of July. There were many people attending the event, including lots of children. There were officers stationed in key places throughout the event area and Bicycle Officers were able to address all issues in a timely manner. There were plain clothes officers stationed on the Noyo Bridge. There were no problems with fireworks on the beach, although there were a few fires early on in the evening. Some people turned around at the check point, perhaps because of the parking fee or they may have had fireworks or alcohol that they didn't want to give up. Some people expressed their disapproval of the parking fee although it was explained to them that the fee was to help offset the costs of the fireworks. The traffic was congested after the event for about 45 minutes. There were no major incidents. There was a fight at Chevron that resulted in injury to a female, a few cites were given for littering and one person was cited for using a laser pointer after not responding to verbal requests to stop. There were no illegal fireworks noticed.

Mayor Turner heard that families were very happy to be able to have their children on the beach again to enjoy the fireworks show.

Committee Member Peters asked Chief Lizarraga to please give a short report to the City Council on Monday about the 4th of July activities.

Malcom Macdonald asked if this was the first year for the Parking Fee and if it was to cover the insurance for the event. Committee Member Peters explained that it was to defray all costs associated with the event.

- Chief Orsi informed the Committee that the Fire Department will be getting a new water tender at the end of July or beginning of August. He also mentioned that it has been so far, so good as far as the fire season goes, although there have been lightning storm warnings recently.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 by Committee Member Peters.