



**Naugatuck Emergency Management Advisory Council
N.E.M.A.C.**

Minutes of the 9/24//12 Special Meeting

Attendance:

Members:

Chief Ken Hanks, NFD, Chairman
John Deer, NEMAC
Marilyn Dempsey, Tech Air
Chief Christopher Edson, NPD
Karen Spargo, NHVD
Terry Stieber, NVNA
Jay Pugliese, NPD
Al Raymond, Secretary

Attendees:

Lydia L. Bozensla, NPW

The meeting started at 2:08 PM with the Chairman leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman distributed copies of the comments solicited from Council members who attended the recent State wide exercise. The Chairman then announced that we would conduct our elections. Al Raymond, Secretary nominated Chief Ken Hanks, NPD for the office of Chairman. There were no other nominations. With the consent of the Council the Secretary cast 1 vote for Chief Ken Hanks, thus electing him unanimously for the office of Chairman.

Nominations were then solicited for the office of Vice Chairman. Chairman Ken Hanks nominated Jay Pugliese, NPD for the office of Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Secretary Al Raymond called for a vote on the candidate. The vote was unanimous, thus electing Jay Pugliese, NPD to the office of Vice Chairman/

Nominations were then solicited for the position of Secretary. Secretary Al Raymond nominated John Deer for the office of Secretary. John Deer declined the nomination. Chairman Ken Hanks then nominated Al Raymond, Secretary for the office of Secretary. There were no further nominations. The Secretary called for a vote. The vote was unanimous thus electing Al Raymond to the office of Secretary.

Chairman Ken Hanks then began the discussion of our recent State wide exercise and a recent He gave a brief overview of the conclusions reached by reviewing the exercise at the State and local level. He informed the Council that it is the State's intention to run regional exercises some time next year. One issue that he brought up was the lack of exercise facilitators in the exercise had a negative effect on performance of those participating in the exercise. Local observations of the exercise revealed consistent problems with commercial e-mail service in our area. He recommended that in future exercises we use the town e-mail server which has shown better reliability. This prompted discussion by the Council's PD members about adjusting their email systems for greater utility in an emergency. Chairman Hanks then told the Council about a future change considered in the handling of email for the Council, which would include a new email address.

The next exercise related issue the Chairman introduced was the use of WebEOC. On the whole it worked well and was used well in the exercise. He mentioned that there has been comment on the lack of use of the video conferencing system in the exercise. At a recent ERPT meeting he attended among the topics covered were flooding issues in the exercise injects. The Chairman then solicited additional comments from the Council on their previously submitted exercise comments. Chairman Hanks then told the Council that he would be distilling the comments and observations about the exercise into report that should be available in a couple of weeks.

Chief Christopher Edson, NPD brought up the point that due to the noisy conditions in the EOC it would be prudent in the future to relocate smaller functions of the Incident Command structure outside the main EOC room. The inputs from the Planning functionary or the Logistics function could come from a secondary location in the building. Communication to and from the main EOC to this secondary location or locations could be via phone or by a representative from the secondary location. Chairman Ken Hanks related his experience in last year's storm emergency concerning cell phone chatter and noise at the FD EOC location. Chief Christopher Edson then related potential improvements in cell phone access that could be installed, funding permitting. He also mentioned improvements in document printing for the EOC that have been recently installed.

Chairman Ken Hanks the outlined items like cots and comfort kits that have been acquired as a result of the exercise. He discussed plans for allowing the Senior Center to be safely powered by by a Fire Department generator in an emergency. He told the Council about the current status of plans for an emergency generator as part of the high school renovation. Vice-Chairman Jay Pugliese, NPD and Chief Christopher Edson, NPD discussed possible acquisition of additional light-tower generator units.

Chairman Ken Hanks then related information he acquired in his recent meeting with DEMHS on the subject of sheltering to the Council. He related to the Council that the State is currently emphasizing a regional shelter approach to avoid duplication of services and other issues.

Local sheltering as an option is still possible, but the mandated services that must be provided would be onerous to a municipality that might wish to go that route. A discussion of the practical implications of the regional shelter initiative and operational aspects of running a local shelter followed.

Chairman Ken Hanks then talked about changes in the FD's policy for dealing with flooding issues in an emergency.

Chairman Ken Hanks and Chief Christopher Edson, NPD then discussed and informed the Council on the issues for interoperability and other issues with the future use of digital radio technology by the PD.

Returning to the sheltering topic, Chairman Ken Hanks told the Council about quantities and status of various emergency consumables in town possession.

Chairman Ken Hanks then told the Council about things that have been learned from the August 1, 2012 storm. The storm caused unique and unusually widespread flood damage, with homes in previously never flooded locations suffering significant damage. The Chairman related the problems some individuals with homes and other structures in town who due to a lack of previous need, did not have flood insurance and were not covered by their existing insurance for this kind of damage. The Council then discussed flood insurance and some local history on this topic and other flooding issues.

Chairman Ken Hanks told the Council about traffic control equipment that has gone to the FD and PD. Vice Chairman Jay Pugliese and Chairman Ken Hanks then discussed storage and disposition details for the equipment.

Chairman Ken Hanks then asked Karen Spargo about her agency's experiences during the recent exercise. Karen Spargo replied that it went well. She also talked about expanding the MRC to generate local membership in Naugatuck. She then discussed the possibility of having local future MRC members receive shelter management training. Chairman Ken Hanks mentioned that the Fire Police would soon be receiving shelter management training.

John Deer informed the Council about the Fire Police recruiting efforts at the recent Harvest Moon where over 30 applications were handed out. He told the Council about 3 new Fire Police officers who were very recently sworn in. Currently he and his organization are aggressively recruiting. He then discussed his observations on the apparent absence of Safety Patrol and CERT personnel from the community service / emergency management scene for over a year.

Vice Chairman Jay Pugliese told the Council that the Safety Patrol has not been in existence in Naugatuck in recent history. John Deer observed that the Safety Patrol still has a budget.

Chairman Ken Hanks said that he would talk to Fran Dambowsky, EMD about CERT. Chairman Ken Hanks then asked John Deer about cross training Fire Police as CERT. John Deer expressed concerns his people being doubly tasked during an emergency. John Deer then asked Chairman Ken Hanks if he could bring up old business. The Chairman assented.

John Deer talked about last meetings discussion of tracking things through the Council's minutes. He asked Chairman Ken Hanks if he and Fran Dambowsky had looked into the issue.

Chairman Ken Hanks replied that he and Fran had done investigation of the issue and they feel the Council should do better job of tracking. The Chairman directed the Secretary to include in these minutes that he is working on an "After Action Report for this event (Emergency Drill)" for our next meeting.

John Deer reiterated his desire that the minutes contain action items that would allow the Council to track progress.

The council's next meeting will be either 11/19/2012 or 11/26/2012/ Topics will include the after action report for the State wide exercise last summer and a possible meeting with a representative of CL&P.

Jay Pugliese, Vice Chairman made a motion to adjourn. John Deer seconded it.

Respectfully submitted

Albert E. Raymond
Secretary