

**MEDINA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
February 22, 2017**

Present:	Brian Guccion	Michael Costello	Guests:	Lynda Bowers
	Conrad Sarnowski	Matt Hiscock		Carl Rommel
	Adam Friedrich	Christina Fozio		Robert M. Haas
	Mike Lyons	Wally Sobczyk		Anthony Strazzo
	Bob Painter	Matt Sturgeon		Richard Fletcher
	Ralph Copley	Ben Nau		
	James Baird -Alternate for Carl Deforest			

Sarnowski called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Sarnowski provided an opportunity for public comments. There were no public comments.

Copley motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2017, seconded by Guccion, and approved by all.

Copley motioned to approve the meeting minutes of the special meeting on February 2, 2017, seconded by Guccion, and approved by all.

Painter motioned to approve the bills as RESOLUTION 2017-005, seconded by Hiscock, and approved by all.

Nau apprised the Board of the LEPC full-scale exercise on June 24th, 2017 in cooperation with the Medina County Sanitary Engineer. It will be at the Liverpool Wastewater Treatment Plant

Nau also described the upcoming LEPC joint conference at Buffalo Creek Retreat on March 21st, 2017. It is held jointly with Summit County. To date, there are approximately sixty registrations.

Sturgeon reported that the application for the FY2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant has been approved. The grant will reimburse MCEMA for the cost of updating the All-Hazards and Flood Mitigation Plan. The grant is in the amount of \$37,126.76, and will reimburse seventy-five percent of the amount spent.

Fozio reported the Commissioners approved a 2.5% cost of living increase this year. She requested for the Board to consider the same increase for emergency management personnel as it has in the past.

Copley motioned that the Board follow the County and approve a 2.5% cost of living increase for emergency management personnel, retroactive to January 1, 2017, seconded by Costello, and approved by all.

Fozio requested the Board to approve professional development for her by attending the National Homeland Security Conference in Buffalo, NY on June 5-9, 2017. Her estimated cost is \$1400. It is cheaper than in the past because she will drive.

Friedrick motioned to approve Fozio's request to attend the National Homeland Security Conference, seconded by Costello, and approved by all.



Fozio reported that since the contract with Everbridge will expire soon, the office has been researching mass notification vendors internally. WENS, Rave Mobile, and Everbridge are scheduled to give presentations tomorrow for the Mass Notification Committee at 8AM. Hopefully, we will have a recommendation for the Board based on that.

Fozio will be out on medical March 9th and 10th, for the Boards awareness.

The Board reviewed a revised copy of the All-Hazards SOP. Mike Lyons said the significant change is the committee consists of four chiefs chosen by the Chiefs' Association and the EMA Director instead of all the chiefs. All the chiefs will still approve an annual All-Hazards budget. Painter asked if the committee could be a seven-person committee to include all three cities. Guccion replied by asking if that would be a problem. Painter said there hasn't been an issue with attendance among the All-Hazards Committee. Hiscock said the recommendation for a five-person is based on the attendance record of the current sub-committee that shows we can have consistent full attendance with a committee of five, which is better than consistent partial attendance among a seven-person committee. Copley supported Chief Painter's point since a seven-person committee would include all three cities. Guccion clarified that there would be three cities, three village or townships, and Christina. Guccion supports the more, the better, but he asked if attendance will be a problem. Baird said attendance among the All-Hazards Committee is not the issue as it is among all the chiefs. Friedrich said it's their committee, if they want seven it's fine. Guccion said it's not a problem.

Friedrick motioned to approve the SOP changed to the All-Hazards Committee consisting of seven instead of five, second by Guccion, and approve by all.

Sarnowski asked if there were any questions or comments among the Board members regarding the SOP.

Lynda Bowers said that she was on the Board when the All-Hazards Committee issue come about. There were two choices: the SOP or a council of governments. She said that in the last week a number of emails have flown around. It's not necessary to address them specifically because everyone knows what they are, but at the end of the day, the Emergency Management Director doesn't have to agree to do this. There has been a line drawn in the sand, and, since that time, a number of townships, hers included, have voted to withhold funds from TROT until such time as they are assured that there is a good working relationship between EMA and the Fire Chiefs and that issues have been resolved. Christina is, as far as Bowers has seen in the time she was on the Board, following the Board's dictate and doing what she needs to do trying to get the SOP together. It's unfortunate that it's taken two years, and that might be part of the issue. But, the EMA Executive Board have to know that the Fire Chiefs are willing to do it and that its going to be ok. That is why she is here today, and the Township Association knows she's here.

Fozio has a concern moving forwards. As grateful as she is with the SOP moving forward, it has been challenging and for whatever reason this small project has been even more challenging than anybody would expect. From her perspective in support of the All-Hazards Team she has a vision of them having a building and improving the program and recruitment. Her concern is that this small SOP has been such a daunting task, it worries her how successful some of those larger tasks may turn out. Because this SOP is really, in the big picture, a small part of what All-Hazards should be moving towards. With the idea that we're going to have some larger projects, at least from what she envisions, she doesn't want to keep

running into the same kind of challenges as this SOP has created because we have some big things that we need to move forward. Her intent is to see them through and she doesn't want to have a challenge every time something new comes up that is much larger than this SOP.

Bowers said the alternative is a very inefficient and cumbersome council of governments run by the Commissioners under their budget. She doesn't think anyone wants to go there.

Guccion asked Bowers if the Lafayette Township Trustees had taken a vote not to fund the All-Hazards Team. Bowers said they did. She doesn't know how any elected official, in good conscious, could turn over tax payer dollars not while knowing if the process is going to be consistent with Ohio Sunshine Law, which was the whole reason the prosecutor's office came to Board and told the Board the options. If this process is not going to be in place, and the Committee is not willing to advertise meetings and work consistently with Ohio Sunshine Law, and the EMA side hasn't agreed to deal with any of the underlying issues, how can they throw money at it? The elected officials are going to be responsible for that. That's the concern. Not that she thinks that they shouldn't be funding the team; she's always been an advocated for raising the price. That's not the issue. This issue is that they cannot be irresponsible and cannot not follow the law when the Attorney General has said the way we're doing it now is not legal, it's not compliant.

Lyons added that the SOP is a culmination of the whole process. He thinks it clarifies.

Guccion raised the question to the fire chiefs if they were good with the SOP that was just voted on. Baird said absolutely. He said the only real change from what they agreed with in February 2nd was that the committee was changed from a five person to a seven person, which they are fine with. Guccion brought up the emails that have been distributed over the past week. It's out of control. He said that Lynda just told everyone until they have the confidence, and he knows this supported by the head of the Township Association and at least two mayors, they will not financially support the All-Hazards Team. So, those people who are responsible for those emails need to sit when this meeting is over until its cleared up. If not, there will be a no-vote in Sharon. He can say that because there is no confidence from the outsiders looking in. There is no confidence in the structure of what's happening.

Copley motioned to adjourn the meeting a 8:55 AM, seconded by Painter, and approved by all.