

**MEDINA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
MARCH 25, 2015**

Carl Painter

Members Present:	Brian Guccion	Conrad Sarnowski	Matt Hiscock
	Christina Fozio	Carl DeForest	Ralph Copley
	Ben Nau	Ralph Copley	Adam Friedrich
	Martha Catherwood	Bob Painter	Tim Smith

Guests:

- Asst. Prosecutor Thorne
- Fire Chief Carl Rommel
- Fire Chief Jim Baird
- Fire Chief Rob Haas

Conrad called the meeting to order. Christina began the meeting by noting that from the March 11th meeting the board requested the fire chiefs association to provide activation procedures for technical rescue. Christina asked Chief Carl Rommel to explain the correspondence that was sent in reply to the March 11th meeting. Carl clarified that there is an email to everyone dated March 16th and the SOPs that he had at the time. He asked if any board members had questions. He said that he was digging through the files that he had and he found the SOP that he sent to everyone including the county chiefs; when the county chiefs met the evening of March 11th as an association about half of the chiefs did not have their SOP's and they asked where he got them to which the answer was his files in his office. He said that a lot of the chiefs know that SOPs exist but they do not have written documentation; obviously the TROT has been operating under some SOPs whether it is understood or in writing he couldn't say. He said that after his correspondence went out Buck Adams stopped and to talk to him and gave him more history about TROT as it developed through the years and told him that the SOP's that he had are incomplete; Buck did give him a continuation of the page 6 of the SOP's that Carl passed out. Christina told the board that they have a copy of the continuation. Carl continued explaining that Buck stated that it was rescue oriented and he did state that through the years would ask each discipline to come up with SOP's specifically for their disciplines and that he never received anything else from any of the other disciplines. Carl said it is clear to him that through the last month or so that even if the SOP's exist they do not know where they are at and they are not in writing anywhere and even if they are in writing in one place not all the county fire departments have them. He said his initiative is to get together at the next county chiefs meeting to suggest that they put a committee together, or the sub-committee of the TROT, to make sure they develop these SOP's; get them all in one spot and make 3-ring binders for all the departments and then pass them out so that all the by-laws any mission statements, any vision statements, any SOP's for all disciplines...it could be TROT, Hazmat or any other team like IMAT can be included also since we are working on documents for that; should all be in one place for the county teams in a 3-ring binder that can be reviewed periodically and if there are any changes they can easily distributed and exchanged. He said it is obvious that the chiefs do have a problem and they are lacking and from this point forward they are going to make a concerted effort to gather everything and make it good. Conrad asked Carl if he understood why the board did the letter; there is no desire from this

board to oversee any of the fire chiefs or the departments or the TROT but for us releasing money towards it all of a sudden it starts to be embarrassing like the Sharon incident when we are using professional rescue people to save golf carts. Carl said that some of the stuff too is the missions, the visions and the purposes are going to be clearly laid out so if that happens again will be participate and save golf carts and property like a fire department would or, if not, and life is good, then the team will not participate. He said the chiefs need to define the purpose of the teams and what their missions are going to be; mostly on the fire departments we do life safety and then they do conservation of property and conservation of the environment, so, with Sharon going out to a fire alarm the fire department responded; they found the collapse and after that the fire department is there so he can see the mentality of saving golf carts but that could be on the fire department; is that part of the structural collapse...we don't know. He said he did get the intent of the letter from the board and he did not take it that way but he is not saying that all of the chiefs took it bad or good but it definitely points to a lack and a problem that we have in the county. Jim Baird asked to address the golf cart incident; it seems the EMA board thinks the chiefs have no method to their madness; there is a very clear understanding in the fire service and the technical rescue teams that there is a risk benefit analysis that they do every time. He said the risk benefit analysis is they will take extreme risks to save a savable life; they will take very calculated risks to save property; they will take almost no risk to recovery a body or to save property that is already lost. He said he went to the review of the Sharon Township collapse and he did not see anything in there that was not well calculated and that was not planned; when they made an attempt to save some golf carts they were working from the warm zone, which is an area that trained personnel can work from at the edge of the hot zone; they had people circling the building listening and looking at the collapse as it was in place and when it became apparent that it was an ongoing collapse they abandoned the hot zone, the warm zone and they called it a night. He said it is not that they don't have plans in place it is that in this case for whatever reason people were assuming that we were not trained to do or don't normally do and that was not the case in Sharon. Conrad said that was never really the assumption it was the fact that it ended up being a general call-out; he said that the chiefs understand there are problems and the board has no desire to look over anyone's shoulder like mom and dad but that call seemed to get out of control and it ends up on Facebook. Adam said that he has been around from time in the military and with law enforcement that 99.9% of the time the people who are closest to the situation are going to have the best situational awareness, the best information and they are going to make the best decision based on that information whether it is Ferguson or any of these other different things it is probably not in the best interest of this board to trust anyone's opinion outside of the folks who are there until we have a real good reason to question the judgement; he thinks what the board is trying to do is put something in writing so that when you go and rescue the gold carts you can say this is the reason we did this. Adam asked who was going to write that. Carl said that Buck was trying to get each discipline team leader to write the SOP's. Christina said the fire chiefs are prepared to do that. Carl said the team leaders know what they have to accomplish; Larry wrote the rope rescue SOP; Buck reviewed it at the time, thought it was great and he took it but he never got anything else from the other discipline leaders so he thinks it is just a matter of the team, or the discipline leaders getting together and writing it up and they can use Rope as a draft. He said that once the chiefs association can get them and look them over; they have the by-laws that were passed out last meeting, which is a fairly new document that is still in the works and has not been adopted yet. Adam

asked who the approving authority is for that document....this board...the prosecutor's office. Carl said that once they put together that 3-ring binder they can adopt it as official. Jim Baird said at the last fire chiefs meeting it was decided to establish and Best Practices Committee and they have 5-6 chiefs for that. He said the Best Practices Committee will say what the best practices of each discipline, how are they going to implement them and how are they going to abide by them. Conrad asked if anyone had additional questions. Martha asked Carl if he was going to address the social media issue because the way it portrayed in executive session an initial post might have come out someone that was at the incident and then it just kind of got inflated from there. Carl said that can be worked into the SOPs'. He said that Wadsworth as a department they have a specific computer, electronic social media policy themselves and whether the other departments in the county do; he imagines it could be incorporated in the SOP's. Martha said it might not be a bad idea that and that might have kept it from expanding and growing like it did or getting misunderstood. Ralph said he thinks the social media aspect is what he thinks started all the questioning. Carl said he is not on Facebook and did not know what was going on. Ralph said that is where people called him about it and started all the questioning. He told Carl the 3-ring binder idea is great and it will give every department an opportunity to review and update things. Carl said in the past 10 years there has been a lot of turnaround of chiefs in the county and these things from the old chiefs to the new chiefs get pitched or lost in a file....they don't get passed on but with a 3-ring binder that sits next to the department SOP's make total chiefs so any incoming chiefs can look right there. Costello said a DVD is an easy way for departments to study it and print things off. Carl said they do have county fire chiefs website that once things get finalized they can also go on the website and anybody can access that. Baird said that speaking from the fire chiefs they welcome questions that anybody has, if they see on social media, call them up and ask them what is going on. Conrad asked if the departments stay up to date...Baird said there are training requirements for each discipline that are evaluated throughout the year and at the end of the year the chiefs get a letter saying if their guys have made minimum training or not. The board thanked Carl for his time and he said he thanked the board for having him.

Carl DeForest made a motion to approve the February 25, 2015 board minutes as written, seconded by Ralph and approved by all.

Carl DeForest made a motion to approve the March 11, 2015 Special meeting minutes as written, seconded by Ralph and approved by all.

Ralph made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2015-006 for the monthly operating bills, seconded by Carl and approved by all.

Ben started to explain to the board the excess inventory resolution that was a result of the remodel being done on the decon trailer for equipment that is no longer needed. Christina handed around pictures of the remodel that is not yet complete. She said that there is a recommendation from the Hazmat Team to approve 6 additional hours of labor to complete that project. Wally said Joe from JAK Remodeling is charging \$50 an hour. He said they are working to ensure the shelves are well anchored and constructed but there are approximately 6 more hours need to finish what they started. Wally said

there is a request for an additional \$300 of labor and approximately \$400 additional dollars requested for some bracketry and netting to hang lights and complete the work. Ralph asked if this was in the budget and Christina said yes.

Adam made a motion to approve an additional \$700 to complete the shelving project, seconded by Guccion and approved by all.

Christina moved back to the excess inventory resolution. Ralph asked how the inventory was going to be sold and Christina said gov.deals since it is the easiest way.

Ralph made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2015-007 for excess equipment, seconded by Hiscock and approved by all.

Christina moved to the draft letter on behalf of EMA and the board regarding the Nexus pipeline re-route project. She said that the letter goes along with what a lot of county departments are doing which is requesting that FERC consider some re-route proposals that have been presented to them from some grass route organizations. She said the Commissioners, The Parks District, the Health Department so all have their own spin on specific to their role in the community so she put her EMA concerns on the one she drafted regarding life safety concerns; she does not know if this is something the board is interested in putting out there but there is a filing date in order to submit this kind of information. She said she tried to write it in a way that requests them to consider other re-routes; we are not against it; we are not for it; we are in support of protecting our public safety community and that is really the premise for writing the letter. Ralph said he thought he saw something yesterday where they have proposed a re-route. Adam said they have; his question, when this came to the commissioner is what is the role of the commissioners and what is the role of this board in regard to the pipeline; we all know we have pipelines everywhere; maybe not to this size. He said we know there are other pipelines proposed throughout the country; the Keystone pipeline is getting a lot of publicity; he does not know most people's concerns and he know that pipelines are necessary and they are the safest way to transport oil and gas; whether it is jobs created in Ohio or jobs created in the country or our energy independence the arguments for pipelines are more numerous than the arguments against pipelines. The question comes down to what it the function of this board in regard to this pipeline; the way he saw it from a commissioner perspective, whether this pipeline comes through Medina County or not, is not my call. There are 2 properties it is going to touch, the county home and the highway engineer and we said yes to the surveys so they are looking at those properties. He said the way he looked at it is the safety concerns that the folks who oppose this pipeline have in his opinion are subjective as to how severe those safety concerns are; there are probably people in this room, especially folks who have been around know more about those safety concerns than either he does or the folks who have asked for this letter. The way he looked at it the difference between a FERC regulated pipeline and a FERC non-regulated pipeline is primarily the use of eminent domain, additionally the route that was chosen was chosen without any property owner input. His concern with the letter is it seems to be pretty strongly written toward saying re-route the pipeline and he is not sure that is what the function of this board is; he thinks the function of this board is, if the pipeline is going to go through this area lets make sure it

has the least impact possible as well as as many safety considerations need to be considered. Christina clarified if the board wants to write a letter and reword the draft in a different way. Conrad said there can be a million letters, they are going to do what they want anyway, and he trusts the pipeline more than half the gas tank cars and rail cars that go right through the middle of Seville. Conrad said this is by far the safest way to transport and Adam is right we have the Buckeye Pipeline on the north end that could be disastrous. Discussion was had about the pipeline leak in Wellington and there is not question there are issues but again, what is the function of this board. Ralph said he agrees with Adam that we do not have a dog in the fight and whatever they hand us we are going to take care of. Adam said he understands there is pressure to write a letter but his perspective was imminent domain and that they put the route together without local input. Christina said that CORN did visit them and they also met with Spectra when they flew safety personnel from Texas to meet with EMA and the fire chiefs in the route communities. She said the letter was not written necessarily because CORN visited but the letter was written because the fire chiefs have concerns regarding their volunteer departments. Christina wrote in support of our safety personnel but if the board does not think it is a good idea we can move forward. Hiscock said he would agree with many of the statements but he is not sure this board is in the right to weigh in on this kind of thing and he understands what Christina is saying about the chiefs though; if there are chiefs that are concerned about addressing incidents along the route certainly that is an EMA matter but he doesn't know the benefit of crafting a letter-it seems strong and if they are going to make a statement as a board the draft needs tweaking but he doesn't know if sending a letter is the right move at this point. Discussion continued regarding the board position and it was decided to not send a letter.

Christina presented the board with a training proposal from Greg Smith, the Hazmat Team Leader. The training is in Baltimore and Greg feels it would be a huge benefit for him and the Operations office, Matt Payne to attend. Greg put together a quick budget. The board felt the budget may be a bit high. After discussion regarding the value of the training and the proposed cost Adam made a motion to approve the hazmat training for 2 people to not exceed \$2,500, seconded by Ralph and approved by all.

Wally explained to the board that the Hazmat team needs to complete bench testing of the SCBA's in the trailers and he got a price from Warren for \$726.50 to include fuel charges. Ralph asked Wally if he considered using Pro-X; Wally had not. Ralph made a motion to approve the bench testing as requested Wally to first get a price from Pro-X and complete the testing with the lowest vendor, seconded by Carl and approved by all.

Wally explained to the board that the 3 trailers need to have the roofs sealed for ongoing maintenance and that 2 of the doors need to be reskinned. He researched a couple of local vendors and found that Altmeyer was the cheapest and they warrantied their work. Adam made a motion to approve the trailer to be completed to not exceed \$1,500, seconded by Guccion and approved by all.

Wally told the board that Joe Foecking, the Assistant Team Leader for Water Rescue, sent him applications for the team; they do have a water rescue training coming up for operations and technician and he is going to put that out to team members and the fire chiefs. Guccion asked if Water Rescue is

in the budget for 2015-Wally said he did not know because he has not seen a budget. Guccion asked if it is going to cost us money. Haas said the training is going to be done through Region II and the training that has been identified will be free. Conrad said this will be up for future discussion. Ralph said the Chiefs Association should be the one that approves Water Rescue and brings it to this board and requests the approval. Ralph said this is what we are trying to correct here; let the chiefs take the applications and then come to the board with the outline. Guccion asked Wally if he was going to take the applications to Chief Rommel. Wally said he was asked to send the applications to the team members and the chiefs. Guccion asked who is going to hire the guys. Haas said that Chief Mercik the Water Team Leader will make the decision on the people he wants to hire. Ralph told Wally the recommendation should come from the chief association and the applications should be passed to them and let them do all of that. Guccion asked if they have the money for 2015 and Ralph said they should come to the board with a cost to create this team; let the chiefs come to us instead of us trying to figure it out; this is what we have been trying to fix for the last 3 months. Haas said there is an outline out for the cost of the Water Team. Ralph said he feels the chiefs need to bring that to the board and the board can see how that works in the budget instead of just here it is. Martha clarified that what Ralph is looking for is a consensus and Ralph said yea-what we have been discussing for 3 months and here we are jumping back into the same thing. Martha said that the board needs to know that there is a consensus among the chiefs that the need exists. Haas said the chiefs have approved moving forward with the water team applications at their last meeting. Wally clarified with the board that he will send the applications to the All-Hazards Team; Ralph said to then let the chiefs handle it and have the applications returned whoever the chiefs designate. The board agreed with this process.

Christina explained to the board that Buck had the office on a 3 year replacement cycle for computers and she has not kept up with that cycle. She told the board that the computer that she and Ben are working on are having problems and are old in terms of computer life. Adam asked what that means' she explained that there are download issues and start-up problems and re-boot problems. She presented the board with a price on replacement computers for the Director and EM Specialist. Ben said that the replacement would be easily transported and is desk top computers. Adam said that there are people in the county that have computers that are 7, 8, 9 years old and he wants to make sure they are being consistent and wondered if Lowell's group could look at it. Discussion took place about if it might be an IT problem or something else and Christina explained that the agency has not spent \$12,000 over the almost last 4 years because there has not been the need to replace them but we are at the time that we feel the drives are old and to not lose data replacement is the better option. Tim Smith said that a 6 year old computer is an old computer and they wear out just like a car with 150,000 miles on it; if it is running good it does not mean it will not fail so taking the chance to have it crash and lose data is not worth it. Painter made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2 computers as presented, seconded by Ralph and approved by all.

Christina gave the board a copy of a press release for approval for the River Styx Road FMA grant buy-out. She noted that the press release only recognizes Valley View and Medina County should leave the board proud. Conrad asked if that is it for that area and Christina said no there are a few more that are eligible for 75/25. She also gave the board 2 maps for a potential storage building location for our

county vehicles. Mike Salay offered the vacant area behind Mobile Command to EMA to have the space. She suggested to the board that we brainstorm about how to fund this project. Brian asked if EMA built a building there and the Chiefs went to a COG who would own the trailers and the trucks. Guccion asked if COG can own property; Guccion asked if they could own real estate property; Thorne said he does not know on that but he knows they can own personal property and he would have to look at it. Ralph said it would be a county building and Adam said it would just be an MOU with whoever is using it and that it would still be county equipment. Thorne said it would be county property and he does not know why the county would want to transfer it. Conrad said he is glad to see this because it is a big step. Martha said that as of maybe October for probably 2 years they will have their entire station available even though it is far we are welcome to use it. Conrad said 2 years is a good target date.

Wally presented the board with an electronic 12 volt jack for the structural collapse and decon trailer. He said the ball sits down below the bed of the truck and the hand crank takes forever to unhook the truck; he does not have a labor cost for it yet. He has 2 prices of \$550.00 and \$583.00. Guccion said watching the guys hand crank the trailer on or off the electronic crank is a necessity. Painter said to make sure he gets a good one. Ralph made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 jacks as needed to not exceed \$1,500.00, seconded by Painter and approved by all.

Martha asked Thorne if he was able to research if EMA had the authority to have oversight of TROT but that he did not think so based on the previous opinion. Thorne said he has not finished yet.

Martha also asked, on behalf of her chief, that there does not appear to be any Mutual Aid Agreements that exist within the TROT organization separately and he is making an assumption that because of our overall Mutual Aid Agreements that if anything happened to one of our team members during a TROT incident that the liability would fall to the township for that individual as part of our fire department. Thorne said that is how they normally operate. He said this issue came up on Monday and that he got a copy of a Mutual Aid Agreement from Litchfield and they were indicating that the fire chiefs were making a new Mutual Aid Agreement but he has not seen documentation on it-he hasn't seen anything on it and he does not know if there is anything, other than the old one, he is going to see some chiefs in the afternoon and he is going to ask them if there is a new agreement floating around that people are participating in. Martha said is a big question mark out there just to make sure their guys are protected in the even that something would happen. Thorne said the old one that they drafted and everyone signed off on made each department responsible for their own participation. Guccion said that is what he heard also, Mutual Aid for TROT, the guys are just kind-of sitting out there by themselves. Martha said they want to make sure they are not and they are protected. Thorne said that he will add that to his list of things to ask the chiefs that afternoon. Thorne said at this point departments need to make the assumption they are covering their own people on mutual aid.

Conrad made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm, seconded by DeForest and approved by all.