

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATION COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF October 11, 2013 Meeting

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Commissioner Joe Williams: opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Did everyone receive a copy of last July's minutes? Were there any objections or changes?

J. Williams: Okay let us get started. Next week we are moving out of our current radio room downstairs to the back-up center because some work has to be done. Just wanted to bring it up today, there is nothing wrong with the room. To look at agenda from last month and to follow up with the bus evacuation routes, we did have a meeting with the Bus companies, an again when we work with our partners we come up with better ideas. What we didn't do with our bus evacuations for Sandy, we are trying to figure out the locations to pick people up, and we used the current Bus stops for Suffolk County transit. We come to find out that, not many people took advantage of that, and that no one knows where the bus stops are. On an average, our communities don't use buses. We also found out some of the people who do use the buses where concerned about going to a shelter, were they legal or not legal (get in trouble). We are going try (if we ever have to do it again) that if you need to get picked up, you can call, say you live at 154 Colony Drive, would like to get pick up and brought to the shelters. We will see how that works. On the Federal grants, with the shutdown, we were informed that the current grants we have are still in place, some re-payment will be slow getting to us. It is not affecting us now. There is some concerns going into 2014 god forbid this goes through on the 17<sup>th</sup>, there are some concerns for some people that are grant funded in the county we may have to look at how we would pay them, we may have to get re-imbursed. Just to keep in mind.

B. Delagi: We have not seen any widespread influenza. Two (2) things is that the Commission of Health, from the State of NY issued a mandate for all healthcare workers, State hospital must take the flu vaccine or where a procedural mask any time they are in contact with patient. It doesn't affect EMS at all. So they are really making a push this year. The second thing is they are doing a first responder POD for flu vaccine on Tuesday Oct 22, from 4-7pm at 360 Yaphank Ave and it's a grant maintenance deliverable for us to test our POD plant annually. The benefit for those who participated is they get a free seasonal flu vaccine. We run the POD like we would any disasters POD with PD security. The invites went out to SC PD, Sheriff and Towns Police Dept. We are taking registrations now.

J. Williams: I have been asked from some legislator, the people who work in our shelters, medical reserve and special needs are those people affected by this mandated flu shot?

B. Delagi: they not affected but across the Country, they are encouraged to get the flu shot.

J. Williams: Again, on new business, we did have a presentation last time we met on USAR. There is a USAR drill coming up a full size scale drill on Plum Island for November 9 & 10th. They are very involved; they are going over to Plum Island and spend overnight. Only mandate they had is that they did not want anyone in the testing labs.

G. Miniutti: The center was original constructed back up center in 2010 and it was made from a need for somewhere for us to go while we did the renovations here. It was the basement of the old 6<sup>th</sup> police precinct. It was our primary center from November 2010 to April 2011, when the construction was here. It really hadn't been used since. So we want to get in the habit of using it regularly, so our dispatches can maintain efficiently of working there. It is basically the same but there are some slight differences. We do have a 10 position, 5-radio system over there with a full

CAD with complete access to the county radio system. To our provider, responders, we will be invisible to them which center we are operating from. We are going there to exercise the center and have some electrical work and floorboards re-done here. Additional ALS consul positions to support back up medical control for Bob's EMS people. It was just meant as a disaster center and now it is what we would consider a hot back- up center. If we really need to, we could fill both centers at the same time. Another move in that direction was again to support EMS and have a pandemic plan for the county. If and when that would occur, we could put some of Bob's doctors in the back-up center as extra positions, have some position that could triage and sent out some ambulances. We do have additional work to be done in Coram; we will add 2 positions when we are back here.

J. Williams: During and after Sandy we realized this bldg. doesn't really work for FRES. It was some thought that we would take over this whole building. We brought DPW in to look at it. Their recommendation (cheaper / wiser) was to build another 2-3 story building right next to this one, instead of trying to renovate this building. The question is funding we may need about six (6) million dollars and they are coming to a conclusion that this set up (built 1968) does not work. We need more room for the Operation Center downstairs. We talked about changing the location of EOC and probation would move, it's a 50/50 issue right now. Everyone says we may be better off waiting an extra year to get the proper money to re-build. Tom is going to give us an update for the All Hazard Mitigation plan.

T. O'Hara: The All Hazard Mitigation Plan is Countywide and a renewal process. It was created five (5) years ago from FEMA and it stems from the mitigation act 2000, which requires locals to have / comply with a HMP plan. Five (5) years ago, we had 8 Towns and 15 Villages; this time around, we have a lot more. Post Sandy, and the worst-case scenario the plan itself expired a couple weeks ago. We anticipate that FEMA will grant us an extension. We started in March using all 10 Towns, 36 Village, Tribal Nations and LIPA are all on board. We had our first meeting on Oct 9 and we anticipate having the draft plan sent to the NY State for approval very early in the New Year. We plan it for late March and early April, which will stay in sync with all that 404 money. The plan is doing well and should be done on time. The 404 money is Hazard mitigation plan money available to municipalities and public services (hospitals, schools, etc.) it almost all goes to them. There was LII process that was done last summer. The first cut was complete about a month ago. Every dept. writes it out differently. Approximately 90 applicants made the cut including County depts. (DPW, Parks, FRES & PD). There were 302 applications that made the first cut, totaling \$732 million dollars. The second cut deadline is October 29 2013. They will be packaged together and then handed over for review. We could expect the fast track sometime early in the New Year. The others may be some time in the spring and throughout the summer. The State has a team here at FRES for the county and municipalities to help them. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is very detailed and has to work with DPW. There are five (5) teams going around the county to get them ready for the October 29 meeting. We are in a good position \$732 million are not going to be excluded, from what I could see if, everyone is getting an opportunity to get the gold. I am confident that at least \$100 million HMP money is coming into the County.

D. Miller: We are working with all 10 towns to do disaster recovery at our two data centers. The first one is going to be Brookhaven and wanted to ask you about your communications back up center? Brookhaven is convinced that they are going to stop using the Castle location on Waverly and Sunrise. They were going to send that out to Fire Rescue. It seems a little sketchy. We were thinking maybe use some of the County facilities like they are using at our data center, and they are going to be on our network so that's the point.

B. Delagi: The Health Dept worked with the Sheriff's office, Town of Riverhead and Emergency Management based on exercise about fishing troller that dug up some gases canisters while they were doing some commercial fishing. It actually happened, so we model our exercise on that. It gave us the opportunity to test beyond the normal hazmat and deacon approach. Our food quality

service folks got involved and wanted to make sure we could recover from a downstream flow of contaminated food. The second part of that included one hospital, where they able to use a plan on chemical exposure. We worked with SCPD, exchange Ambulance of Islip's and East Islip school district on active shooter exercise. Full scale and were able to bring in first responders and deal with the mental health. We are currently working with Setauket FD and Springs Fire dept. as they plan NCI exercises for November.

J. Williams: We have a drill coming up for the new MERV that we brought (mass casualties type of bus). We have a Mutual aid in Nassau county, (Wantagh Fire Dept invited us) simulated plane crash exercise and our MERV is going to be there (Jones Beach).

T. O'Hara: NEMO Blizzard, all of the County funding has been suspended. Approximately \$4 million dollars for the county and that will be wired in by the end of the year. We'll make great effort to try and fan that out, based on the paperwork now I'm very confident that will be back into the County this year. Sandy to date county wide, \$163 million dollars in public assistance documented. Municipalities have received a \$117 million and for the County \$35.7 million was written and the Federal share was \$31.7 million, which has already been approved. All reimbursements paperwork will be completed and all payments for Sandy costs will be reimbursed for 2013. The Towns are looking good. We are kind of paying attention to see to it, that some of Federal partners pay attention to the Townships that were overlook (documented \$10 million dollars and only receiving \$5 million) so what is going on here and why is this happening? We are helping them come across the finish line.

J. Williams: One of the biggest things we learned from Sandy is the natural make up of FEMA. When the Event was going on, any wish list we had, we got an okay on. What happened is that part of this stuff was verbal, a lot of it was the people here, and they rotated out every 90 days. So by the time, we went through our claims and needed to know who okay'd it, they said this is not allowed. One of the biggest things we learned is documentation (have to have it in writing). It didn't seem to be any format or logic. A big discussion we had is to go out and buy cameras, so they were not going to allow us the money even though they said ok. We brought some John Deer vehicles for Fire Island. We are better off renting machines for Fire Island. They would have given us money to rent it, but not to buy it. In future, I would recommend any County Dept to rent specialized equipment needed and FEMA will pay. We had to buy so much stuff in such a hurry and we had a big expense.

D. Miller: that's the problem a lot of stuff; you can rent services from like Island Tech, so that is kind of hard.

J. Williams: It was almost 99% percent pay back on everything we rented. They paid our porta-potties faster than they paid our cameras because we rented them. Then they bring people in here for 90 days. The new people have to read other person's notes before them (took a month), then we had a claim and then the new person came in and said no I'm not going to allow that.

D. Miller: Maybe we should do a bit for computer gear and get a rental.

J. Williams: We were running short on 4wheel drive vehicles; we were better off going down to Hertz and renting 10 pickup trucks.

T. O'Hara: Doug made a good point, Gil Anderson over at DPW with vegetative debris; he is putting together contracts to have resources available on standby.

J. Williams: We went through that with Audit and Control. This was emergency purchasing and when does it end? They actually came up and recommended you should have services contract with as many companies you can have, so it can be exercised at any time. There was no problem with that. Same thing with Gil who was working on municipal agreements and that was a debate. We were trying to help Brookhaven, and they even helped us with the snowstorm and FEMA didn't understand that. The County Executive was saying if our plow is going down Patchogue Holbrook road and it has to make a turn on Furrows to go back up/on Nichols road (then plow Furrows road). They were asking Islip and Brookhaven plowing section of Patchogue Holbrook

road, if the State were coming off the highway exit, they would plow that road. FEMA couldn't understand how we could do that without an agreement.

D. Miller: It helps with licensing too because we are facing that problem with computer programs that was brought during Sandy.

T. O'Hara: In all fairness to FEMA (actually happy they left the bldg.), it's a big country and they have all these guidelines. It is frustrating and goes with the lessons learned.

J. Williams: We had 50 FEMA people here and we didn't have enough phone lines so we had to bring Verizon in to run lines/ phones. When we had to put our claim in to get our money back, they were questioning us. Again, rent do not buy.

C. Bodkin: Are there still people still in hotels from Sandy

J. Williams: I don't believe there are still people in Suffolk County but there are still some in the New York City. We had people would live in Suffolk County, who had their homes destroyed and had to move to hotels, went to Florida (legal) and stayed there.

C. Bodkin: And had their hotels paid for by FEMA?

J. Williams: Yes, we had people who convinced FEMA that they live here (Suffolk County) but work in NYC and really should rent a hotel in the City. The hotels here in Suffolk County were about 89\$ a night and in the City they were about \$500 a night.

C. Bodkin: So strange

T. O'Hara: When they first got here, the IAT team / league was just top notch and spread out over \$200 million dollars in 3 weeks to twenty (20) thousand people. We are basically going at a rate of \$8 million dollars in debt a day and you know they are tooling the system. Okay one (1) out of four (4) is tooling the system, what are you going to do slow down the system for the other three (3). No we keep going.

C. Bodkin: What is the status of the new inlet? Is it closed again?

J. Williams: I don't go to those meeting but we have a guy (on one of our conference calls) and I see the emails. There is still a debate about it, to leave it open or close it. I think the majority want to close it. There are people saying that the clamming has been the best it has ever been in the Great South Bay and the water is cleaner. The people houses who got flooded over in Mastic Beach are blaming on that. It has grown, it went from a 20 ft. wide to bigger than a football field. In the summer, there was a number of water rescues, we had a boat stuck in it. I know it has put a hurt on Fire Island. We have a plan that Mastic Beach used to go down that way to Watch Hill marina, now it is cut off. Some of the Fire Island Fire Depts. want to make that a fire protection district and actually charge the Federal Government for fire protection.

C. Bodkin: So ultimately, the Federal Government owns the seashore.

J. Williams- Gil Anderson, DPW is the lead on that; I am only going by the minutes.

The next meeting is January 10.

### **Old Business:**

Evacuations

Hurricane Sandy hotel accommodations

A motion was made by J. Williams to adjourn meeting; All in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Members Present	Department	Staff Present
J. Williams	FRES	R. Paladino
R. Brockman	Parks Police Dept.	
	Sheriff's Office	
B. Delagi	Health Service	
	County Executive	
P. Kalan	Police Dept.	
D. Miller	IT Dept.	
T. O'Hara	FRES	
G. Miniutti	FRES	
C. Bodkin	Legislature	
B. Chamberlain	Legislature	

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	January 10, 2014
<b>TIME</b>	10:00 a.m.
<b>LOCATION</b>	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank