

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATION COUNCIL

DRAFT
MINUTES OF
November 21, 2014 Meeting

Commissioner Joe Williams: opened the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

J. Williams: Let's get started. To keep you up to date, the hot item in the County right now is that DPW went to Buffalo yesterday. The State called out across the whole State asking for assistance for pay loaders and dump trucks. The county sent pay loaders and they arrived last night. The hotel rooms had to get worked out for the employees. It is still snowing in Buffalo.

C. Bodkin: how do they get the pay loaders up there?

J. Williams: they went on a tractor trailer

D. Miller: there were no problems driving up there?

J. Williams: I didn't hear any. They met up with Nassau County (sending trucks also) and they had a list of all the DOT stations from here to Buffalo on the freeway in case they broke down or needed assistance. Right now in the city of Buffalo they have 7 / 8 ft. of snow on the ground. They are predicting more snow today and tomorrow. They are very concerned with this weekend because it is going to warm up a little and are worried about the rain. They are running into the same problem now that roofs are starting to collapse because of the weight. They had 12 casualties, and are finding some people in the snow (if they were shoveling and had a heart attack). Still having problems with the getting people to the hospital. The streets are almost impassable. So they sent them to the local Fire Stations and some people had heart attacks and died there. There were some child births too. They still have about 100 cars stuck on the NY State freeway.

J. Rung: They are supposed to get more weather on Monday.

J. Williams: Actually that is going to hurt them. Have you seen some of the pictures on T.V. or the Web? The biggest problem they are having with some of the houses is that the sliding glass back doors are breaking from the piling weight of snow outside. They have about 3,000 people without any electricity in city of Buffalo. As far as fire resources, they are looking for a sea crew (mini pumper) and asking for some engines. We are the furthest county for that, so we are not targeted for that. What is happening is that a lot of the law enforcement and guys in the fire house can't get home. We may see almost like a snake chain, where they are going to start moving more units in. They won't send Suffolk County units to Buffalo, they will start with sending us to Westchester and moving Westchester counties up (only 150 miles away from their district) to keep it safe. A DPW tour of duty is 72 hrs. but it took them 2 days to get up there. Another problem is that the airports are closed.

C. Bodkin: how much equipment did we send up there?

J. Williams: We sent two (2) pay loaders, two (2) dump trucks and four (4) pickup trucks. It wasn't a question in the County executives mind, but the cost is \$5,000 a day. The top item with the County is that there is only two (2) ways you can get reimburse, 1 by declaration like Sandy. If not we can bill the city of Buffalo. We just finished paying a couple of Fire depts. from Sandy.

D. Miller: where are they putting all of this snow?

J. Williams: Gil Anderson said they have no place to put this snow. Now the tree huggers don't want us to dump it into the lake. That's a debut right now, the parking lots are full. They are running into a lot of problems with that much snow and abundant cars buried under snow, they don't know where they are until they hit it. We have a presentation by the SC Sherriff's office.

Deputy Sean Thompson: (SC Sheriffs) Good morning gentlemen. I work full time for Lt. Rung over at the Court complex and also work part time for Sgt. Andrew Jack in the Marine Bureau. I was asked to come today and speak briefly on 2 of our assets (Marine 41 & Marine 7 Sea legs). The reason the Sgt. can't be here today is that they doing sea trials. Due to the weather I'd much rather be in here instead of out on the water today. Starting with Marine 41, this is for use of the East End task force, which is comprised of Police depts., Village depts., NY State Parks police, NY State DEC and Coast guard. Here's a tape from FEMA by port security grant, not only did it covered 41 foot vessel and number # of training sessions as well as equipment. The first 1st training session were a given, vehicle operations. Personnel from sheriff's office, police depts. out East, DEC and Coast guard. Everyone had to get trained on this new vessel because it is a jet driven vessel and works more like a jet ski, certainly when going in reverse. So the grants covered the acquisition of the vessel, operations training on the vessel. We then did Harbor incident response training, NFPA course given out in US coast guard station at Shinnecock. Marine Firefighting, Ship board work, was to the find the fire plan if you have to board a vessel, stuff like that. It also covered distributions of 80 RAD detectors and along with that 1 day training at Fire Academy. Those got distributed to East End Marine task force, Riverhead and SC Parks Police. The grant also covered a training program - Operations Shark. I do call it a training program because when the whole array of break out drills to tabletop and then it goes to a full scale exercise.

Deputy Sean Thompson: Marine 41 particulars: Aluminum hull, 41ft length in all. It's a Shallow 36 inch draft, sort of a critical piece considering the river ways like the Quogue canal. It is vital for us to get a jet driven shallow draft vessel. It is powered by a twin deiseal- jet drives, top speed just in excess of 40 mph. A 360 gallons of fuel will take her about 250 miles. It is controlled by Hamilton blue arrow controls (primary, secondary and tertiary means of operation) for this vessel. There is a regular steering wheel, emergency joy stick and a most useful is a Hamilton boat mouse. Right next to the operators right side, is the mouse. Whatever way you push that (forward, back, sideways) the boat moves whatever way you want (360⁰). It's an excellent tool for docking and boarding. Also when we are boarding this 250ft multimillion dollar yachts, it's nice to have the ability to control this vessel. As well as when we talk about the fire fighter capability's and assists them with this Hamilton mouse drive is a critical piece of gear.

D. Miller: what kind of capacity does it have for drafting?

S. Thompson: Its 2,000 gallons per minute. The main effort here is that it's a sea bird vessel. It has 500 pound data winch to assist in hauling equipment. Clear forward looking infrared to allow for night opts. The side scan sonar lets you see the debris and sunken vessels. After Sandy, there were a lot of buoys and moorings were washed out. The 41 went out East in the spring of 2013 to help the Coast guard find pilings that ran a drift. More particulars it has a 2,000 gallon per min fire pump. The average fire pump will pump 1500 gallons. We work a lot with the East end Fire depts., they came out, got on to the vessel and we ran with it. There is a monitor that is controlled from inside the cabin and has a manually power advance station. The Arbitrator system, you have three (3) cameras (1 inside, 1 on the deck and 1 forward). We took part in the DWI check points and it allows you to video and audio your field sobriety tests of these motorist. It Lead to 18 DWI arrests this summer alone.

D. Miller: can you move the vessel why it's dreading? Or does it loose some power?

S. Thompson: yes you can but in order to power the pump, you disable the starboard engine. There is EMT equipment on board (similar to ambulance). We do have BLS bag on board, oxygen, defibulator. We also have a lot of deck space. There is a concert on the water every year, fireworks and details. This asset goes out and supports the East end. We can help if there is an injury, we can assist them on this vessel.

C. Bodkin: what's the draft?

S. Thompson: It is 36 inches? CBRNE (chemical biologic radiological nuclear explosive) is the meat and potatoes of this vessel. It has the 5 gas meter and has a filter positive pressure cabin. With area rate and bio-kem ray, we usually pick up the SC Hazmat team and work with them on this. This stuff is usually set for chlorine, Ammonia and hydrogen sulfate.

B. Delagi... CBRNE has the ability to change the setting based on a certain incident.

S. Thompson: Yes we went into the Bronx and worked with NYPD harbor patrol. Homeland security checkpoint was doing a function (making sure no dirty weapons come through).

B. Delagi: what was the approximate cost of that?

S. Thompson: the vessel itself approximately \$6000, 000 to have and obtain. It was stressed for the Team of the East end task force. When we talk about operation shield, Long Island sound, Great South Bay, they are just gateways to the city for terrorist to have access to Manhattan.

D. Miller: that's a real good deal, I have friend with motor homes for that much money.

S. Thompson: On employment regarding operation shark (which is a training program designed specifically for this platform) was to secure the city and for full Sandy clean up. The Coast guard reached out to us when they knew we had the side scanner. We helped them find a number of floating debris. BW patrols and check points, we talked about 18 arrests just this past summer. Victim and patient recovery (rescued a fisherman who was floating out off Montauk last yr. he was floating for little of 24hours) found him 15 miles off of Montauk. EOD last summer was out conducting Opt shield for 3 days and found some old WWII vessels. Marine 41 was dispatched out there for scene security. Other security mission, Vice President Biden was out here, Govern Cuomo is a big fan of fishing off of Montauk and Marie 41 has been sent out there numerous times to assist for security.

T. Peters: Where is this port? Is it in Peconic Bay or Shinnecock port?

S. Thompson: It depends because it's cover the East end, docked by the day. Sometimes it's Coast Guard Montauk or Coast Guard Shinnecock dock. Every week it is someplace else, depending on who needs it. Opt. shield (ICS 201) is working with homeland security, they come out (prior to last year) and instead of the Marine 41, they would get on a smaller boat, 26 ft. Parker. With this asset you have 3 agents from homeland security with all their equipment, as well as the Marine patrol operators going out and doing this boarding (chasing them down). In Opt. Shield we utilize Marine controls, we check every major Marina in Suffolk County, working with all the Police depts. They check the Eastern and Western towns. They are about 400 Marinas on Long Island. We have people on land (w/ rad detectors doing walk through) and vessels checking foreign flag ships and have to report to ALS (vessel tracking system). If they haven't checked in; the homeland security has to go have a chat with them. We did 47 foreign flags vessels boarding this July 4th. The intend we are looking for are security things, weapons and stuff like that. Opt. Shark (Mr. Delagi, thanks for you help) was a training program we had to give back to FEMA. It had to be AC complaint. We came up with an operation that had to be realistic. Base on this real world event in 2010, (we used this as an exercise) a fishing vessel did dredge up some old canisters of mustard gas. This was the scenario we came up with; again because the grant covered the East End Marine task force, we had to spread that out over five (5) townships. It kicked off at PDMC in Riverhead, where the actor said he had blisters and the nurse staff there identified it as mustard gas. That intern dispatched Southampton police and Fire Marshals down to the Shinnecock boat docks. The SC Hazmat team came out and did a full deacon with Southampton Fire Marshal's office. Then the last venue was the spout fishing up in Southold. Through investigation some of the clams may have been contaminated so the clams where quarantined, dept. of health and agriculture became involved.

These are the objectives, ICS and big on Hazmat. This is the article about Gardner's Island from July 13th. These are just some excerpts taken from the Suffolk times.

B. Delagi: I had work on couple of years ago with the transfer of ownership with the family for the Garden Island Estate and they have some sort of sophistic Med Link with the doctor in case there is an illness or injury on that island. At the time we worked with Police aviation section in case we had to evacuate somebody from that Island. Would this boat be an alternative choice depending on conditions?

S. Thompson: Yes it absolutely would. You could use aviation as a primary and sheriffs as a secondary. Also there are the local Bay constables and the NY State troopers have a vessel out there for Fisher's Island.

B. Delagi: I think at the time it was the East Hampton boat and it was small. It wasn't really condusive to that area (rough seas) and help transport someone injured on it.

S. Thompson: Absolutely this is a great option. A lot of times this is kept out in East Hampton. M7 sea legs (have not yet seen this because it is getting delivered today) is a 23 ft. vessel; you should notice something unique about it. The purpose behind this vessel (after Hurricane Sandy there was a lot of flooding) was to rescue personnel. A lot of Marine Bureau assets you wouldn't want to bring in to help with the floating cars and debris. However this asset has worked out for other depts. and a lot of regions across the globe at sea level to use this for transition from water to land. It goes about 5 to 6 mph on land with the ability to transition from land to water again. Primarily this vessel will be pulled out for emergency rescue operations. The one we are getting delivered has a mini top, good piece of equipment to have. Ours doesn't have a fire pump. If people are stranded on a ramp and need help, this has very fast deployment so you can launch from any beach.

J. Rung: With sea legs there's no hesitation, you can go right from land to water.

S. Thompson: Yes base on what I've seen. There are two independent motors, 150 engines for the out board and a 2nd power motor for the wheels.

D. Miller: Do you keep that on a trailer somewhere or do you keep that in the water?

S. Thompson: Yes it will be kept on a trailer, probably in Riverhead.

C. Bodkin: yes excellent presentation

B. Delagi: **Ebola Health issues**: Going on emergency Mgt. terms we are in the mitigation and preparedness phase. We are taking steps to prepare our county, ambulance systems, law enforcement and public health clinics. We now have a surveillance program in place to eliminate effects of Ebola in the United States. So the last seven (7) weeks have been working 16hr days all about Ebola. We have been working with Health services, Health Commissioner and close contact with Joe Williams here at the FRES. So in summary as you know there is a surveillance program in place for any who comes in the Country that their itinerary includes travel to the 4 HOT ZONES. We just entered Maui (3 cases in Maui), so Liberia, Syria, New Guinea and now Maui. Anybody who has a travel history through those areas immediately gets isolated and screened through the NYC dept. Health dept.

If their travel plans include Suffolk County, they transfer the surveillance to SC so we know exactly which people have been in contact with Ebola or came from those areas, they are not sick people. So we have several options to monitor those people for 21 days, if they get a fever they go straight to the hospital. After 21 day period passes and are not symptomatic then they go back to their life with no restrictions. We have a current case of Ebola in Wyandanch, a health care worker taking care of a patient with Ebola from Belleview hospital. He was under monitoring and allowed to keep working but we were watching him. On Oct 23rd, we had two (2) citizens who came back from W. African and had them under 21 day surveillance; we will continue to do that. The Peace apts in the county has developed a protocol (known as infections disease calls) that identifies a patients travel history and symptoms with Ebola. Our peace apt with the County is doing this and State health requiring 1st responders to train and meet the mandate. We knew that our EMS system wasn't ready for this. So we developed an Ebola task force that consists of University hospitals and ambulances. Any infections disease call can be dispatched to Stony Brook. We have our software updated with the language associated with Ebola. We are in flu season now and have done a lot of work with Sheriff's office and corrections / in the jails. We had a lot work done in our health centers. We are the coordinating body for the link between emergency depts., Health and all the agencies in the hospitals. A lot of unannounced drills have occurred lately. Whole bunch of activity!!! One glaring issue we face right now is that demand for medical supplies / equipment. That will be reserve it we have a case and need it.

J. Williams: Say we have a fatality with Ebola ...does the virus die with the person?

B. Delagi: yes the virus dies with the person. Know however the virus will continue to survive in warm moist situation until it is sterilized or burial. Our medical examiner is up to speed on disposal of body with the virus.

J. Williams: Is it mandated that the body be cremated?

B. Delagi: Yes I believe that it is. Has to be incinerated.

J. William: What about religious right?

B. Delagi: As it relates to the virus living; remember you can only get it by body fluids. The nurse who got exposed was that over the course of a few days in the hospital she handled 12 gallons of his diarrhea. It is not transmitted through the air. It is not air borne disease. It does not live it is bleach, then it's gone.

J. William: What about the pets... can they carry it?

B. Delagi: Ebola is a disease limited to mammals, which is what cats and dogs are. Mostly linked to primates such as monkeys and gorillas that are infected in Africa. You need SPCA to weigh in with this?

J. Williams: We talked to them. Not really getting answers and not sure where they would have people bring their pets?

C. Bodkin: there was a case that they had to put the dog to sleep.

B. Delagi: the reason is that nobody knows, there are no domesticated dogs and cats in West Africa. Honestly we are reacting more to the media then by science. If there person is not sick the animal will not get it. The 21 day period is firm, if you don't get sick after 21 days you don't have it. You generally get infected by day 1 and by day 8 you have a fever, by day 15 you start to bleed and by day 16 you're dead. This is a very rapidly spreading disease. We are aware of it and we are watching very closely. We looked at our 2010 census from Suffolk County and 286 out of 1.4 million people that are of Africa descent. So the likely hood of someone traveling from West Africa to Suffolk County is pretty minimal. Only 2 people who contracted Ebola on US soil contracted it in the hospital by the patients that came in. It is not in the U. S.

Thanks you. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

The next meeting is February 13th 2015.

Old Business:

New Warehouse
Hazard Mitigation plan.

A motion was made by J. Williams to adjourn meeting; All in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Members Present	Department	Staff Present
J. Williams	FRES	R. Paladino
	Parks Police Dept.	
S. Thompson	Sheriff's Office	
J. Rung	Sheriff's Office	
B. Delagi	Health Service	
	County Executive	
P. Kalan	Police Dept.	
D. Miller	IT Dept.	
	FRES	
	FRES	
C. Bodkin	Legislature	

NEXT MEETING	February 13, 2015
TIME	10:00 a.m.
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank