



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Emergency Management Department

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JOHN STREIBER
Deputy Director

FREDERICA WEEKS
Deputy Director

JOSEPH PALOMBIZIO
Emergency Management
Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMAC)

June 10, 2019 2:00 PM Town Hall Meeting Hall

MINUTES

Councilors Present: Joseph Palombizio, Emergency Management Director; Patrick Getler, North Central District Health Department; Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, Ellington Public Schools; Rebecca Stack, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker; Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER – 2:04 PM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Meeting of April 8, 2019

MOVED (STACK), SECONDED (GETLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2019 EMAC MINUTES.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update – Security Testing for Ellington Computer Users (KNOWB4)

Patrick Kenton was unable to attend, but Joseph Palombizio shared a conversation he had with Mr. Kenton earlier in the day; a couple of individuals have needed to take some remedial training, but overall it seems to be going well.

- B. Update – School Security / Run – Hide – Fight Update

Brian Greenleaf reported that all of the schools were visited in April and May to introduce and further discuss the details of the program. Training with students will be rolled out in the fall; it will likely be a lesson plan that the teachers can incorporate into plans for their classes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. North Central District Health Department Updates

On April 16, the NCDHD held a Point-of-Dispensing (POD) exercise; Patrick Getler explained that the scenario was a drone releasing anthrax over Ellington and Vernon, which would cause residents to have to go to the POD site in Vernon to receive the appropriate medication. The POD site was set up in about 2.5 hours, which was within the goal of three hours or under; some signage challenges were identified, so one of the improvement actions will be to get more consistent signage in multiple languages to make it very clear and easy to read and follow. ADA compliance was good, overall; however, a different door entrance for those with special needs may benefit the overall process. The POD Security Plan was able to be validated during the exercise, and radios were tested to check if the Town-wide frequency could be utilized for transmission. There was a compatibility issue with using the frequency for out-of-facility communications. Mr. Palombizio asked how the word would be dispersed to residents if such an event occurred and they needed to visit the POD site. Mr. Getler stated that Town Emergency Management Directors would be contacted, and then the word would be disseminated through any available means of communication. The State Department of Health and the Division of Emergency and Homeland Security would also be extremely involved to make sure all of the same information was being sent out. More staff would be needed in the event of a real-life scenario; training CERT teams in POD setup and operations would be a good option to alleviate this issue.

Mr. Getler also shared that the NCDHD is starting a new five-year funding period, beginning July 1, with the Connecticut Department of Public Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant. The focus this period will be on pandemic influenza. The NCDHD will hold one tabletop exercise for anthrax, one for pandemic influenza, and they will participate in the State's full-scale distribution exercise, to be held by April 1, 2021. They will also do some work with vulnerable and at-risk populations.

B. Emergency Management/CERT/Shelter Updates

Mr. Palombizio mentioned that the CERT focus right now is to continue to get involved with more regional and Town-specific exercises where they can be of assistance, such as the POD exercise that Mr. Getler mentioned.

Crystal Lake Shelter doesn't have large pots and pans to cook for a large number of people; in the event that the shelter needs to be utilized, this raises an issue. This equipment will be purchased so that the shelter is fully supplied.

"Go bags" were recently purchased, with a variety of first-aid items to keep at each of the shelters.

C. Evacuation/Reunification Drill at EMS – May 29, 2019

This drill focused on getting students and staff to their predetermined location after an evacuation, as well as matching up the children with the appropriate parent or guardian. Parents are asked for identification, the name of the child, and their classroom/teacher.

One point of potential concern is parents who may claim, validly or otherwise, that they have permission to also pick up their friend or neighbor's child. Mr. Greenleaf stated that there is still work that needs to be done on the plan, but it was a good starting point to identify what needs work moving forward. The process took much longer than anticipated, but there were only two people working the table, so having more staff would alleviate that. There was also some bottlenecking at the entryway, with parents lined up for their children. Some good standard operation procedures were brought forward that may be adopted by the school district in the future.

D. Active Shooter Exercise – Fall 2019

In October of 2019, there will be an active shooter exercise with the schools, State Resident Troopers, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, and the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This will take place at Ellington High School on a Saturday morning; the school's drama club has been contacted to act as "victims" in this active shooter situation. Teams will be sent in to assist once "warm zones" are identified and cleared, per recent Stop the Bleed training.

Mr. Getler asked if the Emergency Operations Center would be incorporated into the active shooter exercise; Mr. Palombizio will talk to John Streiber to see if this is something that will be addressed during the scenario.

Mr. Palombizio talked to the Human Resources Department and Safety Officer at Rice Packaging to see if they would be interested in a presentation on reducing workplace violence; they were receptive to improving their overall security plan. He also has been in touch with Dymotek and Country Pure Foods, and will be working with departments and businesses around Town to continue rolling out more programs focused on basic first aid and lifesaving efforts.

5. ROUNDTABLE – INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

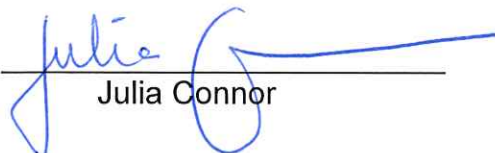
Rebecca shared that the Human Services Department is currently running their Renters Rebate program; they are also looking forward to getting the Free Little Pantry up and running. She told Mr. Palombizio that if there was ever any relevant Emergency Management items that he would like included in the Senior Center newsletter, he can let her know and they can add those in to their monthly publications.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STACK), SECONDED (GETLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:35 PM.

The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Submitted by:


Julia Connor