



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Emergency Management Department

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Deputy Director

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMAC)

January 6, 2020 2:00 PM Town Hall Meeting Hall

#### MINUTES

Councilors Present: Joseph Palombizio, Emergency Management Director; Sgt. Brian Santa, Resident State Troopers' Supervisor; Patrick Getler, North Central District Health Department (NCDHD); Peter Hany, President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Jack Rich II, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); James York, Fire Marshal; Rebecca Gonzalez, Director of Facilities, Ellington Public Schools; Frederica Weeks, Deputy Emergency Management Director; Joy Hollister, Human Services Director; Rebecca Stack, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker; Timothy Webb, Public Works Director; Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER – 2:04 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting of November 4, 2019

MOVED (HANY), SECONDED (STACK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EMAC MINUTES.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The program so far is going well, overall. There are still a few users that are clicking on unsafe links and email attachments, but there aren't too many issues being identified.

B. Update – School Security Programs

Sgt. Santa stated that they haven't heard of much negative feedback; Windermere and Ellington High School are still being incorporated into the full program. The question of the fire doors being opened or locked during a lockdown situation is still being discussed. Rebecca Gonzalez stated that they reached out to other districts to see what

they do during lockdown drills and fire drills; it was determined that the fire door locking sensors are not being utilized during lockdown drills as they are during fire drills. Leaving the doors unlocked allows for quicker access by emergency personnel; however, it would also allow a perpetrator to move freely throughout the building.

#### C. Update – Ellington Rescue Task Force Personnel/Equipment

There are individuals who are trained for this task force, and the specialized “warm zone” equipment has been ordered, according to the Assistant Finance Officer.

#### D. Update – Everbridge Emergency Notification System

A test of the system is usually performed twice a year; Everbridge reported that 7,000 notifications were made during the last test in the fall.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. North Central District Health Department Updates

Patrick Getler reported that the focus of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program has been on pandemic flu planning. He stated that first-responders are among the highest tier of priority for vaccinations. The way that medications and vaccines are being distributed is shifting from a local to a regional focus.

#### B. Emergency Management/CERT/Shelter Updates

CERT adopted a few individuals in need through the Human Services Holiday Program.

#### C. Eversource – Storm Responses

The area was recently affected by two strong storms, both of which came with significant road closures. Timothy Webb stated that Eversource has promised a better response moving forward, and it will be a matter of waiting for the next weather event to see if response time improves.

Chief Rich also reported that there was also a power incident on Stein Road that took quite a few hours to handle.

James York asked if there was a possibility to contract out in these instances; Mr. Webb stated that no one is allowed to touch or work on Eversource’s infrastructure.

Frederica Weeks asked about the Eversource liaison who is supposed to be contacted in these situations in order to address concerns; these individuals are now covering larger areas than in the past.

Sgt. Santa stated that it might be more efficient to develop better traffic detour plans and other preventative options in the event that responses aren’t improved in the future. He suggested looking into improved barriers for the State Troopers and EVFD to use.

Mr. Webb stated that they will be increasing the Tree Warden budget in the upcoming year, and they will do everything they can to offset some of these challenges.

Joy Hollister reported that the new Chair of the DEEP Legislative Committee is looking to be more proactive and has been requesting more information into Eversource's activity and responses in these situations.

D. JLN Associates – Fire & EMS Study

A study was performed in conjunction with EVAC, EVFD and the Crystal Lake Fire Department. Chief Rich felt that this report should have been more inclusive with other agencies, including the State Troopers Office, the Fire Marshal's Office and the Emergency Management Department. President Hany stated that there wasn't much that came out of the study that wasn't already known. There was no mention of consolidation or mutual aid suggestions, which was surprising. Chief Rich stated that Ellington is one of very few local fire departments that are 100% volunteer-based.

5. ROUNDTABLE – INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was no further discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (HANY), SECONDED (GETLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:51 PM.

The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, April 6, 2020.

Submitted by:

  
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Julia Connor