

GRANT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING
GRANT COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
Lancaster WI 53818
September 13, 2010

The Grant County Emergency Management/Disaster Services Committee was called to order September 13 at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman John Patcle. The following members and personnel were present:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER SERVICES COMMITTEE: Larry Wolf, Pat Schroeder, Robert Scallon, Steve Adrian, Vince Loeffelholz, Lester Jantzen, John Patcle

GUESTS: Steve Braun, Emergency Government, Sheriff Keith Govier, Grant County Sheriff's Department, Chief Deputy Jack Jackson, Coroner Ron Sturmer, Chad Breuer, Grant County Sheriff's Department, David Timmerman, Grant County Herald Independent Editor and Julie Loeffelholz, Recording Secretary.

Motion by Steve, second by Larry, verified that the meeting had been posted in accordance with the open-meeting law. The Agenda was approved with no corrections in a motion by Pat, second by Lester. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved in a motion by Vince and second by Pat. Bills were approved in a motion by Pat and second by Lester. All above motions carried.

Old Business: Steve reported on the status of the recovery from the July 22 flooding. Public Assistance is going very well. FEMA has three full-time project officers working with municipalities out in the field, and they should be done in about 2-3 months. A fourth person will be coming on board in another week. We have made office space available in the training room at the law enforcement center to accommodate them. We have completed an Applicant's Briefing, where representatives from WEM and from FEMA explained the public assistance and mitigation programs and what each community will need to do to document damages for reimbursement. Julie and Matt will be working with the Project Officers to ensure municipalities are assisted. The "paperwork" from an event like this lasts for nearly two years on average, with some projects extending much longer than that. There are still many projects pending from the 2007/2008 flooding events, and even a few lingering from the 2004 flooding.

We had a second flooding event on August 8, which will not be eligible for assistance through the declaration as it happened outside the incident period. Smelser and Harrison Townships were especially hard hit. We hope to be able to request assistance through the State's Disaster Fund to help the towns with repairs to damaged roads.

Although our Public Assistance request has been approved, our request for FEMA Individual Assistance to affected homes and businesses is still pending. We were denied the first time for assistance to residents. We are currently working on an appeal through the Governor's office and WEM. FEMA was back two weeks ago for a second tour of the county and we showed them some additional properties that they didn't see on their first tour. Nothing official has been publicly released at this point, but Steve has had discussions with federal representatives that were very encouraging. If a declaration were to be made, a location would have to be quickly identified to establish a Disaster Recovery Center, where residents could go for assistance with their FEMA claims.

We held a public hearing last week for residents to give input into the application for monies through the Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program through the Department of Commerce. We are waiting to hear if we are awarded IA before we make a final decision on the dollar amount to request for this grant program.

Even though there are no funds yet available to assist residents, Case Management has already begun. We are beginning to see residents with lots of issues beyond damages to their homes. For the next 3-6 months Steve and Julie will be spending most of their time working with residents to get their homes and lives put back together.

NRCS Project: The streambank project on Hippy Hollow Road is complete and Steve is working to finalize the paperwork with NRCS. Photos were passed around of the project. The original NRCS estimate was \$30,000, however the final project cost was much lower at approximately \$18,000. The project was designed by Mike Dreschmeier of the NRCS. The resident is very happy with the work as he has his driveway and yard back and his home is once again protected from the stream.

Mitigation projects are slowly progressing. The Potosi homes have been purchased and a contractor has been identified to remove them. The house on County B is being closed on today. One house in Lancaster has also been purchased and the other is still pending.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant will be coming out. Again, a proposal will be submitted to assist the Village of Bagley with cleaning out the drainage ditch. This project was not approved the last time.

New Business: Steve presented the Budget to the committee. There are not a lot of changes. Salary and Health Insurance costs have gone up, but the rest have stayed the same and a 0% increase budget is provided. Steve pointed out that the net cost to the County for our office is \$66,819.42, with about 40% of our funding provided by the county, and 60% provided by state and federal grant funding. Over the past ten years, the average funding brought in by our department has been \$1.8 Million each year through grant programs and federal aid. Motion by Pat, Second by Robert to send the Budget to the Finance Committee. Motion carried. Discussion about how 0% increase was achieved. Steve responded that like the past few years, additional expenses were taken out of the carryover account to balance the budget.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn by Vince, Second by Lester. Motion carried to adjourn until Monday, October 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Grant County Law Enforcement Center.