

# MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, January 24, 2023

Called to order at 9:00

**Members in attendance:** Penelope Love, Robert Walker, Garry Kotvasz, Paul Petrie, Bill Missal, Rose Ristovski, John Huppert, Kevin Nowaczyk, David Pastrick, Rachel Wilkinson.

**Guests in attendance:** Nicholas Cash, William Huffer, Chris Meyer, Sue McCormack, Brent Smart, Richard Taylor, Robert Patterson, Amy Bluhm.

Pledge was recited.

Introductions

Minutes were reviewed, a motion was made by Bill Missal to accept, seconded by Penelope Love, no discussion, vote was unanimous, and motion passes.

## **Treasurer's Report –**

We have received nothing from across the street as far as financials go, the account balance showing in the system is \$48,999.15. *[The amount that Rachel was able to retrieve from the Oracle system was found to be inaccurate. The amount quoted in the system was the beginning balance for 2022. The actual end balance for 2022 is \$51,188.38]*

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter rave bill was paid by the Lake County Fire Chief's Association and will be taken over by Lake County 911 moving forward.

Motion was made by Penelope Love to accept, seconded by Bill Missal, no discussion, vote was unanimous, and motion passes.

## **Correspondence –**

Kevin Doolin, Vice Chair has resigned after over 20 years of faithful service to the Lake County LEPC. This leaves the position of Vice-Chair open. A motion was made by Robert Walker to keep the Chair (Kevon Nowaczyk), Secretary (Paul Petrie), and Treasurer (Rachel Wilkinson) positions the same as the previous year. The motion was seconded by Dave Pastrick, no discussion, vote was unanimous, and motion passes. Dave Pastrick nominated Robert Walker as Vice-Chair, the nomination was seconded by Bill Missal, Mr. Walker declined the nomination. Robert Walker nominated John Huppert for Vice-Chair, Bill Missal seconded the nomination, no discussion, vote was unanimous, and John Huppert takes the office of Vice-Chair.

**HEPC** – Hospitals drop in COVID, December spiked to about 100 but we are now back in the 40's. Testing way down, Flu is dropping as well. The Coalition Snowmageddon exercise at Valparaiso University in December was a great success. The Coalition is planning two exercises; a patient surge tabletop and an Infectious disease functional for later this year. The State has released special pathogen plan all hazards approach; IU Healthcare Methodist infection treatment center. They will be at the HCC meeting 2/15

**HazMat** – Responded to a UPS truck that ended upside down on the toll-road overpass, the semi-cab burned releasing fuel and oil, boom deployed, waiting on payment. The team has a Paramedic; we have a father/son team going to Technician's class at the MACC, which will bring us to 12 technicians on the team. Mr. Nowaczyk commented there are 10 in the current class and there is a lot of interest in joining the Hazmat team among his students. Mr. Missal continued, Mark Allen passed FAA test for drone, we are currently discussing having drone training twice a month for the team; Bill will be meeting with EPA Region 5 to plan a training/exercise involving Bakken Crude and LP gas in March at the welcome center in Highland, details to come, next planning meeting is Jan 31 at EMA. EMA and the Fire Chief's Assoc. have received grants for Hazmat training to send members to Baltimore or Northbrook this year. Bill Missal will begin training this week at Whiting and East Chicago and plans to visit all departments.

**HEALTH** – Status quo COVID testing will be extending to April or May, Drive through testing is conducted Monday through Thursday and the testing is free. Immunizations for shingles, flu, M-pox, are available through the vaccination clinic.

**CORONER** – Should have final statistics by mid-February, will be around 100 homicides in 2022, and we have had 3 for 2023. The coroner's office is no longer testing for COVID so no statistics for this year, will send out stats when complete. The office has a new companion dog, Snoop. Snoop seems to be helping both staff and families through difficult times.

ARC – Penelope Love is completing her first year as Disaster Program Manager for this area. Lake County: 73 single home fires, 24 multiple family fires 18 other events in 2022; opened 140 recovery cases; since July 96 homes, 206 smoke alarms installed in homes in Gary; visited 220 kids with the Pedro presentation (kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) & 260 kids with the pillowcase program 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; a working shelter group will be evaluating all the shelters that have been used in the past, including contact information.

INDOT – Rachel Greenwood was unable to attend the meeting due to the incoming weather, she sent information about the snow impacting the commute Wednesday morning and up to five inches of snow was expected across the region. She also recommends everyone take advantage of the traffic wise ap to monitor the roadways.

**New Business** – Drone meeting; BP Tri-Annual exercise tentatively scheduled for the weekend of September 11 STD planning meetings begin 1 FEB, HAZ mat F500 encapsulating training 1 pm today in Gary and 6PM tonight in Griffith

A motion was made by Bill Missal to adjourn, seconded by Penelope Love, no discussion, vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned 9:52

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Kevin Nowaczyk, Chair

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Paul Petrie, Secretary