



Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

October 30, 2012 Meeting Minutes

EMERGENCY MEETING

Present: Selectman Chairman Brian Bowcock, Vice Chairman Charles Murphy, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley.

Also Present: Police Chief Michael Myers, Fire Chief Timothy Francis, Edward Fortin (Water), BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado, Shellfish Warden Timothy Cox, John Rogers (EMA), Linda Schick (Sewer), Kathy Tripp (BPW), , School Superintendent Robert Baldwin, Sergeant Kevin Kobza and other emergency personnel.

Chairman Bowcock called the meeting of department heads to order in the Fire Department meeting room at 2:00 p.m.

POST HURRICANE MEETING

Dr. Bowcock opened the meeting by saying that the Town “lucked out” in that Hurricane Sandy did not hit the region as hard as it hit other areas, like New York and New Jersey.

The shelter at the Hastings Middle School was activated and was used, said Dr. Bowcock. Overall, he said the Town did a good job responding to the State of Emergency. He opened the meeting up to department heads to discuss how they would use the experience to improve their emergency responses in the next event.

Vinnie Furtado, BPW superintendent, said that he would work on improving communication to areas that would be cut off from water. He said that the Recycling Center would have extended hours on Saturday, November 3 and Sunday, November 4 to deal with the debris left behind by the storm.

Mr. Espindola joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Chief Myers said that there was some confusion in responding to emergencies because they did not enact an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Chief Francis concurred, saying that the dispatchers had to respond to a large quantity of calls for NSTAR needs. They agreed that a future emergency situation should include one designated dispatcher for NSTAR calls.

At the time of the meeting, it was determined that most of the Town had power, except for a few homes on Gелlette Road, West Island and Wilbur’s Point.

Superintendent Baldwin said that the school shelter housed one man during the storm. He said that the shelter was in use until around 9:00 p.m. At that point, the situation was assessed and it

was determined that the man using the shelter would be able to return to his home. He was escorted to his home by the police.

Dr. Baldwin said that he would like to have a clearer definition on the protocol for closing the shelter/keeping it open in the future. Mr. Osuch said that the protocol had been established at the prior meeting – that the ultimate authority in a State of Emergency would be the Select Board Chairman, then the Vice Chairman, then the Clerk.

Mr. Rogers said that the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has a “shelter manager”, but she was not present at the shelter for Hurricane Sandy. He said a member of the EMA arrived at the shelter at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Espindola said the group should reflect on some of the issues raised – in regards to activating an EOC and changes to the shelter policy.

John Rogers requested a list of damaged Town buildings and facilities for filing with MEMA. It was determined that the former MacLean Seafood building, the Academy Building roof and the roof of the Fire Department headquarters, all sustained some damage. The damage at the MacLean Seafood building would be more considerable, said Chief Francis, who estimated the damage to be at least \$25,000 to 30,000.

At 2:40 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to withdraw the State of Emergency. Mr. Espindola seconded. Vote was unanimous. (3-0).

Chief Francis encouraged the Board to consider giving the Town a way to curtail sightseers in a storm. He said that sightseers made it very difficult for crews to navigate emergency areas.

The meeting disbanded at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Selectmen’s Secretary

(Minutes approved 11/13/2012)