

Members present: Allen R. Phillips Christopher A. Rucho
 Valmore H. Pruneau Kevin M. McCormick
 John B. DiPietro, Sr.

Mr. Phillips convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He reported that he held a conference call this afternoon with the Governor and Director of MEMA. At the peak of the ice storm 350,000 people were without power, 261 towns were impacted and 98 declared a State of Emergency. We had 120 shelters open with 2,220 people in shelters. A large number of CERT groups have stepped up and helped in shelters in addition to 1,500 guardsmen being activated. Now we have 46,000 homes without powers and all major roads are open. There are 53 shelters open with 1,019 occupants. Beginning tomorrow teams will be going out to gather damage information and get funding moving. This evening Mr. Phillips would like to concentrate on what remains to be done.

Mr. Gaumond reported that the public access channels are still down. Charter is working on this and hopefully the meeting this evening will be broadcasted tomorrow. We will continue to do what we can to get out the information and he will continue to speak on WTAG. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that a lot of people are without cable and wouldn't hear the meeting.

Mr. Gaumond thanked everyone for coming out this evening. The first update in on the shelter. Immediately after the ice event, the shelter at the Middle/High School was available for people to get hot meals, stay warm and take a shower. You can also spend the night there if you wish. It will be open until Wednesday night and a decision will be made on Thursday as to whether it will remain open after that. Questions about the status of the shelter should be directed to the dispatch center at 508.835.3233. Town forces are also working hard to establish electricity.

Brad White, Municipal Light Plant Manager joined the Board with Commissioners Win Handy and Denny Smith. Mr. White reported that currently he has under 300 residents without power. They are now in the process of going street to street. There are still houses on Goodale Street that are out, but it is spotty. If a service is ripped off the house the resident needs to hire an electrician to do that work. Mr. Phillips asked Mr. White if he had a list of contractors. Mr. White has three or four local people who have been doing the work. He cautioned the viewers as there is a man going around with New York state license plates offering to do the work at an exorbitant amount of money. The Police Department is aware of this individual. Currently the lower Pierce and Maple Street area to the railroad is the biggest area out. They had an issue with the prison because the line was down. He reported that basically, there is no big pocket of outage and we are in the tedious part. He had seven out of town crews in since Saturday, and they rotate coverage. Mr. Phillips requested the names of all who assisted so that they can be thanked. Mr. White explained that now it is house services and you have to find it. He stated that they will be done before it begins to snow on Friday, however, there will be houses out if they do not get an electrician. He credited the DPW staff for clearing, sanding and salting the streets. Mr. Philips thanked Mr. White for a great job.

Mr. DiPietro explained that he has received phone calls from people voicing frustration that the main street had power and they did not. Mr. White explained that the system is like a road map and you have to get the main feeders up and on first so you can get the laterals off of it. You also have to go with the greater good and masses. When the ice storm hit 100% of the town was out and now it is down to 10%. Mr. Pruneau noted heavy damage in his section of town, commended Mr. White for his work and asked for an estimate on the number of lost poles. Mr. White believes that number to be 30 to 35. Mr. Rucho asked whether residents who have poles leaning should call the Light Plant. Mr. White's response was they probably have already called. Tomorrow the focus will be on the calls that came into the office and they will go into the neighborhoods. Mr. Rucho asked about the cost range for

an electrical service. Mr. White noted that it depends on the extent of the work and the materials needed, however, a service change used to be around \$1,000. The contractor needs to be licensed in Massachusetts and the Wiring Inspector oversees permits. Mr. McCormick noted that Wiring Inspector Michael Capone inspected 17 services today. Mr. White informed residents that if they have a generator they need to isolate it off the Municipal Light Plant system.

Mr. Handy recommends further discussion on what went right and wrong as had there been a fire, how would the trucks be able to pass on some of the roads. Mr. Phillips let him know that there will be a meeting.

DPW Update

Mr. Gaumond reported that the number one call he gets is what are we going to do with the brush. Mr. Westerling thanked those who made the DPW's job a little easier, the residents, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, MEMA who got a lot of support from the Department of Conservation & Recreation, Mass Highway Department, and the Mass Pike. He also thanked the Municipal Light Plant, Fire Department, Police Department and the American Legion who opened up their doors to feed people for free.

Since Thursday at 9:30 they have been working from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. every day either plowing debris or feeding chippers. Last night at 11:30 they were called out for sanding. The DPW did a fabulous job getting the roads open and safe. Moving forward they will do brush clean up on town property, edges of roads and in addition the debris left at the edge of the road.

Clint McFarland, USDA – Asian Longhorned Beetle Update

Yesterday Mr. McFarland met with Mr. Gaumond and Mr. Westerling and the USDA is ready to assist with the removal of wood debris within the regulated area. Mr. Phillips explained that there are two areas the Asian Longhorned Beetle area is the Regulated Area or the non-Regulated Area. Mr. McFarland has noticed a lot of tree service companies from other states in the area and wants to ensure the proper handling of materials within the Regulated Area. They have 12 log loaders and 6 bucket chippers ready to move. In West Boylston he will have 3 log loaders and 3 bucket loaders. If people could move the brush to the side of the street that would be helpful as they plan to pick quite a bit of the brush up before the next snow storm hits. Mr. Phillips stressed the need to have a record of how many cubic yards of material are picked up in West Boylston as we intend to seek reimbursement.

Mr. Phillips also asked about the permission slips and trees on private property not completely downed. Mr. McFarland noted the faster the slips come in the faster those trees can be removed. His crews have blank slips which people are signing as they are going through the streets in the regulated area. They are working without the FEMA money at this time and it is estimated that one half to three quarters of the Town of West Boylston is in the Regulated Area. He will coordinate with John Westerling as to where the bucket trucks will be working. They plan to take all trees that all down, host or not and those half down will be done at a later date provided that they are not an immediate hazard. His expectation is that the removal will go on all year. They will also rake yards to the complete satisfaction of the property owner.

Mr. Pruneau asked Mr. Westerling about the hard-hit areas and his plowing operation. Mr. Westerling asked people not to leave brush in the paved way. His crews are chipping some areas and in others they are using the loader to deposit the brush on the front yards. Mr. McFarland stated that if the town has property in the Regulated Area with brush and tree debris, his crews will help with that as well. They will begin removal where the town would like them to start in the Regulated Area. They do not want the brush to be moved around and they plan to pick up all debris at their cost. He estimates the beetle infestation has been here for about ten to fifteen years and he encouraged people to get their

permission slips in as the USDA will be doing the removal at no cost to the residents. His people are going door to door with permission slips as they need the slips to go on private property and remove the debris. Residents in the Regulated Area are able to keep the wood as firewood.

Mr. Rucho asked if the workers had any identification. According to Mr. McFarland all employees have identification cards and USDA badges. There is no charge for anything and most will be in uniform. The Department of Conservation and Recreation is also working with them and they are in uniform as well. If people want to check on whether someone is a worker they can call 508.799.8330 or 508.799.8332. Mr. Gaumond plans to get this information in his Reverse 911 message to the Regulated Area. Beginning tomorrow, Mr. McFarland's crews will be in the other communities with West Boylston and Holden being the biggest push right now. He noted that it is not all the City of Worcester.

The Regulated Area is Goodale Street from the Town of Holden to the intersection of Route 140, along Goodale Street and Route 140 to Town of Boylston and everything south of that line to the City of Worcester is in the Zone. The map will be posted on the town's web site. Mr. McFarland noted that residents can write notes on their permission slip with regard to their debris location. The slip will also be on the web site.

Michael Staiti asked about Angel Brook and Hillside Village. He was told that it is in the Zone, residents needs to fill out permission slips and if they could bring the debris to the curb it would be most helpful.

Bruce Peterson pointed out that as far as he knows his 40-acre property, which is in the zone, and has not been inspected. According to Mr. McFarland, the USDA will take all the damage, he stated 'we are really going to do this.' Mr. Peterson has already started piling the debris, and Mr. McFarland pointed out that it would be much easier for them if it is in a central location.

Mr. Phillips stated that it seems incredible that this is being done and noted that he spoke with people from Washington and FEMA and this will be done. He encouraged people to fill out the permission slips. Mr. Gaumond reminded everyone that opening burning season does not begin until January 15th and there has been no authorization to change the burning period. Mr. DiPietro questioned the benefit of a tub grinder. According to Mr. McFarland they have a tub grinder on Ararat Street for their contractors to use.

Mr. Pruneau asked what people should do if they feel they have a dangerous tree. Mr. McFarland recommends noting that on their permission slip. They are accepting faxed copies at 508.799.8321, however, they will need the originals as well. That information will be on the town's web site and included in the Reverse 911 message.

Mr. Phillips asked if anyone had any beetle questions or clarification. He also thanked Mr. McFarland for taking the materials away for the town. Mr. McFarland is scheduled to be in Worcester through the middle of February, however, he feels that may be extended. He is enjoying the work and will keep in contact. He is also willing to come back before the Board to update residents on the Asian Long-horned Beetle.

Mr. Rucho asked what people should do who are not in the Restricted Area. Mr. Phillips explained that if people can get the debris to the side of the road, they will come through and do a damage assessment. The town will be contracting with somebody to remove the debris as there was a federal declaration of a State of Emergency. It is a huge process and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has to be at \$8.3 million for their damages and it cannot be on private property it has to be to the infrastructure. Mr. Gaumond stated that we fully expect that we will have to remove these materials. Some way we are going to have to deal with this and the Federal Government will reimburse 75% of the costs. He added that the state is favorable to reimbursing the 25%.

Mr. Phillips asked Mr. Westerling where his department is now. On Friday, his department will be plowing the new snow and tomorrow they will repair vehicles. Mr. DiPietro asked if Chapter 90 funds could be used. According to Mr. Westerling, Chapter 90 funds are designed for roadway development and construction and will not cover equipment for cleaning up of the road. Mr. Rucho asked Mr. Westerling if he would like residents to call his office for leaning tree limbs. Mr. Westerling will respond to those calls for town trees, however, he cannot do work on private property trees.

Mr. Westerling reported that thus far he has exhausted his Snow and Ice funds in the area of supplies. He has spent \$32,000 on sand and salt. Should he need to repair a vehicle he would not have any funds and thus he is requesting authority as allowed under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D, to over expend snow and ice.

Motion Mr. McCormick to allow approve an emergency snow and ice expenditure, as allowed under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Discussion ensued with Mr. Phillips recommending setting an amount. Mr. Gaumond explained that Mr. Westerling provides him with Snow Operation Reports which cover materials and time and he can make them available to the Board. Should the Board feel that the numbers are too high, they could have a discussion with Mr. Westerling. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Phillips, Pruneau, DiPietro and McCormick yes; Mr. Rucho no.

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Westerling and his department for their work during the storm. Mr. DiPietro asked Mr. Westerling if he planned to hire anyone else for the snow storm on Friday. Mr. Westerling does not foresee the need to hire anyone else.

Mr. Phillips provided the Board with the weather forecast. We are expecting 10-14” of snow on Friday into Saturday, another storm on Sunday of 6-plus inches and more snow on Christmas Eve. Mr. Pruneau asked about alternates in the event of breakdowns. Mr. Westerling does not have alternate plowers as companies who plow fill their schedules with other work. He does have two mechanics who repair the vehicles as quickly as they can. Mr. DiPietro questioned how long the men work before they get a break. Mr. Westerling explained that this past couple of days he made sure that everybody could be home at 5:00 pm. to rest until midnight.

Rep. James O’Day

Mr. Gaumond noted that over the last couple of days he has had numerous telephone conversations with Representative O’Day. Rep. O’Day joined the Board and reported that he and the Speaker of House went around the town. He thanked everyone for all the work they have done and for keeping him in the loop and is delighted that regardless of how bad things are we didn’t have anybody electrocuted. He commended the Municipal Light Plant on getting power back to people. He noted that the Speaker of the House was amazed at what he saw and understands the significance of the issues we have raised. The most important issue is how do we pay for all of this and the Speaker said we have to find a way as a state because we are talking about a quality of life issue. Rep. O’Day stated that they will find the 25% to be made up. Both he and Senator Chandler will put pressure on the powers they need to and he has great hope that we will be able to whether this. Mr. Pruneau thanked the Representative and Senator Chandler for the efforts.

Fire Chief Richard Pauley

Mr. Phillips asked the Chief to explain what the declaration of the State of Emergency means, what they have been involved in and what is on the horizon.

Chief Pauley reported that last Thursday, December 12th at 2:00 a.m. he received a call from dispatch, he proceeded down from his home, made contact with the Town Administrator and Chairman

of the Board of Selectmen and at 3:21 on December 12th a local State of emergency was declared. All roads were impassible including parts of Routes 12 and 140. About 25 roads in town were impassible. The Municipal Light Plant Manager indicated that 100% of town was without electricity. Chief Pauley noted that for all of us this situation is certainly an inconvenience, but for several members of the community it is a life threatening situation as they require the use of oxygen machines. There were power lines and telephone poles across the roads. We established an Emergency Operations Center in the morning and the Town Administrator arrived and stayed on the telephone the entire day. We also set up a shelter staffed with volunteers and the National Guard. At the height of the event we had over forty National Guardsmen that were extremely helpful. Chief Pauley explained that setting up a shelter is not as easy as it sounds as it is a twenty-four hour operation, needs to be staffed by a representative of the town and have limited authority to make decisions. It provided three meals a day and sleeping and showering facilities. He praised the volunteers who worked the shelter and noted in particular Marcia Cairns, who was fantastic, Bob Barrell and Barbara Mard.

The crew in from Mass Highway worked with DCR, the Mass Pike and used our DPW forces. All the forces were provided through MEMA and he thanked that group for stepping up to the state. He spoke with them five times a day to coordinate things.

Mr. Phillips noted that the Chief also serves as the Emergency Management Director and in that role when a State of Emergency is declared he owns all the assets of the town until it is released. Chief Pauley noted that it is a matter of coordinating the efforts and assets you have. Coordination is critical. He had a strong officer contingent who could handle the day to day operations of the Fire Department. From the Fire Department stand point in those five days they responded to over 75 calls for service and our typical average per month is 108 calls. The calls were for cellar pumping, 19 EMS calls and a half a dozen motor vehicles calls. The Central Mass Fire Chiefs asked the State Fire Marshall to put a task force in place for municipalities and West Boylston received an engine for a twelve-hour period from out of the area as our primary response.

Chief Pauley reported that he has been in constant communication with the Town Administrator, DPW and Police Department. He praised dispatch who fielded calls every fifteen to twenty seconds. Mr. Phillips asked where we go from here. Chief Pauley explained that all towns and cities have been asked to estimate their expenses to date and fifteen to twenty days out and get the initial report into MEMA. He encouraged department heads to keep very accurate and complete records of all their expenditures as they are all reimbursable. He praised the DPW for their job and now the focus is on the dollars and cents for our maximum reimbursement. Mr. Phillips asked the Chief if he is going to lift the State of Emergency. Chief Pauley stated that if we were not looking at fourteen inches of snow on Friday he would have been very comfortable doing that as roads are passable and the Municipal Light Plant is making good progress. However, Friday does not look good. He plans to leave it in place for now and take another look at it in the morning.

Rep. O'Day noted that if the State of Emergency is left on and if we have another storm event we may not meet that threshold for reimbursement. Mr. Gaumond recommends leaving it in place as we have a lot of trees half down and the additional snow may push them down. Mr. Phillips does not believe you can merge two separate storms, and it would be another State of Emergency. Bruce Peterson asked if schools can open under a State of Emergency. Mr. Phillips advised that the decision is with the Emergency Management Director, not the Superintendent of Schools. Chief Pauley reported that he has been riding around town with School Superintendent Tom Kane and they have had some direct and positive conversations about the school schedule. Schools were closed yesterday and conditions improved by 2:00 p.m. today so schools will be opened tomorrow. There are no eminent safety hazards out there, and schools can be opened while under a State of Emergency if authorized by the Director of Emergency Management.

Mr. DiPietro asked the Chief if the sidewalks were clear. Chief Pauley indicated that he did not speak to the sidewalks as they are under Mr. Westerling. Mr. Westerling reported that sidewalks are not cleared. Mr. DiPietro voiced concern with students walking to school. Mr. Westerling explained that the sidewalk is where people piled their brush prior to the snow storm and now the brush piles are covered. Mr. Phillips thanked Chief Pauley and everyone at the fire station for their efforts. Chief Pauley will pass that message along to his staff.

Police Chief Dennis Minnich

Chief Minnich reported that everything has been great with the help of the DPW, Fire Department and Municipal Light Plant. He set up quadrants with assigned cruisers. The communication center was overwhelmed and looking forward he recommends manning individual department so that calls can be forwarded to them. The Chief feels it would have been helpful to have several people answering the phones at the DPW or Municipal Light Plant. He was pleased that no one got hurt. Chief Minnich reported communications were bad, the radio system worked poorly, and the Nextel went down. That is an issue he feels we need to work through as there are areas in town where our radios do not work. Mr. Gaumond noted that communication issues were his number one concern. Most people in town had power out for long periods and getting information out was difficult. The Board of Health handed out flyers up and down Route 12 to get information out on the shelter. Overall, Chief Minnich feels things worked very well and he is very happy with his crew. He plans to have a cruiser out tomorrow concentrating on the school zone.

Chief Minnich cautioned residents as people are coming into town trying to scam them. If people come to your house make sure they show your proper credentials and call the Police Department. If you personally do not know the person, do not let them into your home and if you require the services of an electrician call somebody you know and you trust. No one should be coming into your home unless you personally know them and you should verify who they are with the Police Department.

Chief Minnich has concerns about school sidewalks and bus stops as the forecast is for another snow storm on Friday. One of his issues is if you open the school and conditions deteriorate and we have an early dismissal at 10:00 a.m. students are walking home. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that if this meeting is not broadcasted tomorrow than everything being discussed is useless. He questioned how we get this good information out to the residents. Chief Minnich submitted a request to Central Mass Regional Planning Commission for sign boards and we have yet to receive anything. Mr. Rucho suggested putting a phone number on the sign board in the center of town. Chief Minnich thinks a reverse 911 will go a long way and can be redialed to send messages along. Mr. Phillips noted that there are assets available to the town if requested through the Emergency Management Agency. Chief Minnich noted that the needs were immediate at the time, however, we are all set now.

Mr. Phillips feels that a wrap up meeting will be beneficial in finding what we did wrong and right. Mr. DiPietro asked if the Police Department had a machine to make identification times for town employees. Chief Minnich indicated that his department no longer has that capability. Mr. Gaumond noted that the Town Clerk's Office is able to create those tags. Mr. DiPietro questioned whether the National Guard or FEMA could get school busses for the walkers as we are under a State of Emergency. According to Mr. Phillips, FEMA would not consider that request as their response would be you could cancel school as it is not emergency work. Mr. McCormick noted that what he is hearing from Mr. Westerling is he will not be able to snow blow the sidewalks until the end of the winter. He suggested posting something on the web site. Mr. Phillips noted that everyone is in the same position right now.

Chief Minnich stated that he is very happy with his department and the communications center personnel. Mr. Phillips thanked Chief Minnich and his department

Robert Barrell, Chairman Board of Health

Mr. Gaumond noted that the Board of Health wanted to get the word out to everyone who was without power to throw the food away in their refrigerator. Mr. Barrell reported that we worked well with Chief Pauley and thanked Barbara Mard who spent time coordinating the shelter. During our wrap up meeting, communications was identified as a real concern.

Leon A. Gaumond, Town Administrator

Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that their agenda package contains materials on the public storm briefing, a weather advisory, FEMA information on the reimbursement process, and information on how we need to handle the Asian long-horned beetle. Copies of the information have been provided to the Police, Fire and DPW as well.

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Gaumond for coming into town from Ware and working with the departments all weekend long.

New Business

Mr. Westerling has a request for Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Pruneau recused himself. Mr. Westerling received a letter from Michelle Cormier of 193 Laurel Street. The town has a drainage pipe on her property and it is coming close to flooding her septic system. The town does not have an easement for the pipe on the property, and it predates the construction of the house. There is a drop inlet that goes under Laurel Street and the water runs across the septic system. The goal is to redirect the water. Mr. Westerling has an estimate of \$17,000 from VHB, to come up with a design to direct the drainage 700-feet down the road, which is the first step of the project. He noted that there would probably be a prescriptive easement we could demonstrate and it may be a legal question if the situation is the town's responsibility.

Mr. DiPietro suggested redirecting the water onto the vacant lot across the street. Mr. Westerling noted that we could go across the field or down along the road way. Mr. DiPietro asked whether a dry well would work. According to Mr. Westerling that would not be an option with the amount of water. The abutters beyond the Cormier property have indicated that they do not want the water diverted onto their property.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve a Chapter 90 request for engineering in the amount of \$17,000, seconded by Mr. DiPietro. Mr. McCormick questioned whether we could get better pricing should we not use our town engineer. Mr. Westerling noted that VHB provided the lowest rate when we bid out engineering services. As our contract with VHB is up to a three-year period, Mr. Gaumond suggested to Mr. Westerling that he start the process to rebid those services. Mr. McCormick noted that he is not saying the price is bad, however, it is \$17,000. Mr. Westerling explained that the price is due to the fact that there are no property markers and it will require deed research and survey to develop a plan to establish the right-of-way. There are also trees involved and wetlands. Vote on the motion – all in favor. Mr. Pruneau returned

Michael Staiti – Angel Brook Conservation Restriction

Mr. Staiti joined the Board. One of the requirements of the special permit he received for the project was the donation of eleven acres of land to the town and the Greater Worcester Land Trust. Town Counsel and DEP have reviewed the restriction and approved the language. Mr. Staiti will also meet with the Conservation Commission prior to January 1 as they need to sign the document as well.

Mr. DiPietro asked if the town would have the right of first refusal before it goes to the Land Trust. Mr. Staiti explained that the Greater Worcester Land Trust is the monitoring agent for us. Mr. DiPietro asked about developing a park on the land for the seniors to use. According to Mr. Staiti, nothing can be done on the eleven acres as it is protected open space. The Hillside Village project has the same restriction.

Motion Mr. McCormick to sign the Angel Brook Conservation Restriction, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Declare Bicentennial Trolley And Directional Signs Surplus

Mr. Pruneau explained that the Bicentennial Committee purchased the Bicentennial Trolley from Maine with Bicentennial Funds. We would like to declare it surplus and have the money returned to the town and in order to do that the Board of Selectmen has to declare it surplus.

Motion Mr. Rucho to declare the Bicentennial Trolley and directional signs surplus, seconded by Mr. McCormick, all in favor.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. McCormick to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 18, 2009

Nancy E. Lucier

Allen R. Phillips, Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Vice Chairman

John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman

Kevin M. McCormick, Selectman

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman