

# **MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, March 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08

## **Members in attendance:**

Penelope Love, Bruce Curry, Richard Taylor, Garry Kotvasz, Robert Walker, Paul Petrie, William Missal, Rose Ristovski, John Huppert, Kevin Nowaczyk, Daniel Sullivan, Rachel Greenwood

## **Guests in attendance:**

Sue McCormak, Liz Reimiah, Amy Bluhm, Lori Postma, Peggy Grant, Vince Balbo

Pledge was recited.

Introductions were made.

## **Minutes -**

Minutes were reviewed, and Bill Missal made a motion to accept, seconded by Rachel Greenwood, with no discussion; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

## **Treasurer's Report –**

No receipts or expenditures for the month of February. The account balance remains at \$51,188.

Penelope Love made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Bruce Curry, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

## **Correspondence –**

Several Tier II reports and contingency plans were received.

## **Nominations for treasurer**

Peggy Grant was nominated to be a proxy for Penelope Love, a motion was made by Rachel Greenwood to add Peggy Grant to the roster, seconded by Bruce Curry, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Rachel Greenwood to nominate and accept Peggy Grant as Treasurer for the LEPC, Seconded by William Missal with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

**HEPC** – COVID-19, Flu, and RSV numbers are declining, Flu vaccine is effective. The Coalition is planning a radiation Tabletop exercise in June at Valpo U

**HazMat** – Family Dollar Hammond, chemicals were comingled and the team helped with clean-up; Follow up for Lowell Fire to ensure the site was cleaned up; attended the Volunteer fair at Crown Point High School with Lake County EMA to make a presentation; Attending ongoing meetings with the Kankakee river coalition, EPA, IDEM; Region 5 tabletop exercise will be at the Indiana Welcome Center on May 18, a planning meeting for this exercise will be at the EMA EOC on April 11; Bill Missal and Director Walker attended a planning meeting for the Gary Airport triennial drill, the Tabletop exercise will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> in the EMA EOC and the full-scale exercise will be at the airport on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>; meetings will soon begin for Leon's Triathlon; John Huppert and Bill Missal assisted with the HazMat Technicians Class at Gary Fire Department.

**HEALTH** – Still have PCR COVID-19 testing in building #3 Monday – Thursday, testing is free and will continue through May. The Vaccine Clinic at the Health Department is available for all vaccines Monday – Friday 9:00 -3:30

**CORONER** – No Report

**ARC** – Please see the handouts. The Red Cross had 12 Responses in March, three Single Family fires, six Multi-family fires, and two transportation or other related disasters, which brings the organization to 35 responses Year To Date, there were also eight recovery cases. The Red Cross is partnering with Gary and Hobart Fire Departments as well as Lake County EMA to provide smoke alarms and installations. The Red Cross has sent letters to East Chicago, Lowell, and Merrillville and is awaiting responses to determine the next steps, trained 5 people in Lake County on hands-only CPR, and on March 4<sup>th</sup> a connection was made with Crown Point EMA youth preparedness education with their team in

**INDOT** – Meeting within next week with Parsons to discuss flex road (shoulders into travel lanes) and to discuss quick clearance for Traffic Incident Management, they are preparing a draft of the plan and would like HAZMAT with her to review the many concerns, Director Walker wants to get the information out to all first responders to be included, the meeting will probably be in Teams.

**New Business** – April meeting canceled

Lake County Police Chief Balbo discussed the planning software – StataSite – It has been offered to all schools in the County and the Sheriff's Department has had discussions with the Police Chiefs, 114 schools are active in the system, and this software is an internet-based plan shows where we would stage Unified Command and assets in addition to identifying reunification and evacuation centers if an incident occurs. The Sheriff would like to include hospitals and large venues in the future.

A motion was made by Penelope Love to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Director Walker with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47

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Kevin Nowaczyk, Chair

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Paul Petrie, Secretary