

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
June 6, 2022 – Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: R. Allen (GICSO), R. Kumetz (Vice President, AVFD), P. Robinson (SHVFD), N. Frantz (SHR), Desiree Maltais (GIR), M. Boutin (Treasurer), Erin Creeley (VDH) and Shaun Coleman (NRPC).

Ron Kumetz chaired the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

Changes to Agenda

None.

Hot Weather Emergency Planning and Cooling Shelters

Shaun noted that two Vermont Department of Health staff members are leading the program – Jared Ulmer and Lucy Lieberman. They were unable to attend tonight's meeting. The program offers planning resources to communities for hot weather events including standing up cooling shelters. The most likely place for communities to address hot weather emergencies is through the Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP) as an annex. Information on actions, roles and responsibilities and trigger points for hot weather events should be addressed in the plans. Communities should identify potential cooling shelter locations and identify communication strategies to inform the public.

Additionally, there is funding through H.518, for energy efficiency improvements and switching fuel sources to municipal buildings. The bill would essentially offer funds to a municipality to have heat pumps installed in a public building that is in need of upgrading its HVAC. The public building could then be used as a cooling shelter.

A discussion began about cooling shelters in the County. Ray said his office building has opened as a cooling shelter but it is lacking a generator. It was agreed that every town would benefit from the program and any energy efficiency funding for HVAC upgrades. Ron added that the Bingo Hall generator in Alburgh is no longer reliable and they are seeking funding to replace it.

There was some discussion about sending out notifications including utilizing VT Alert and whether or not all communities had access to VT Alert as administrators. It was agreed that VT Alert should present at the next meeting.

P. Robinson motioned for GICMAA to participate in VDH's Hot Weather Emergency Planning program. D. Maltais seconded. Motion carried.

Shaun will inform VDH and set up a meeting for the Islands in the near future.

Bylaw Changes

Shaun reviewed some potential changes to GICMAA's bylaws which haven't been updated since 2007.

- Remove references to LEPC13 – the state merged all LEPC's into one statewide LEPC
- Add Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) – this is a new entity created by VEM and enacted into State Statutes. Municipalities are to appoint two voting representatives to the REMC. The information was presented at the last GICMAA meeting and the group agreed it made sense to make it as a subcommittee of GICMAA because of the most of the members are

the same and the meeting topics are the same. VEM staff agreed at the last meeting this made sense.

- Some discussion on whether or not to keep Clarenceville/Noyan. Ron will ask if they are still interested.
- Change to bi-monthly meeting schedule.
- Add Open Meeting Law language.

Ron requested that the Secretary send out the suggested bylaw amendments prior to the August meeting.

Minutes

Missing: "R. Kumetz motioned to donate \$500 (reimbursable with presentation of receipts) to Gabby's Frontline Females program. R. Allen seconded. Motion carried."

Change: Al Getler is a member of South Hero Fire Department and not North Hero.

R. Allen motioned to accept the minutes as amended. P. Robinson seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Melissa provided the Treasurer's Report.

The \$500 donation to Gabby's group is reimbursable. If she had specific things she wanted beyond the \$500, the Vermont firefighters association has funding. Receipts would go to Ron then to Melissa who would reimburse them.

Ron reported that last December, the Shelburne Town Manager informed GICMAA of a flat fee amount. It's based on a 3 year average of calls per community.

Melissa noted that the first billing of the first quarter of FY22 was the flat fee with no detail runs. The flat fees are per town. The other costs were whatever the ratio was that was used before for covering insurance, postage, supplies, and resources for St. Albans site. The detail runs were included on the third billing. This was likely due to the new computer reporting system everyone is on that the (former) Commissioner of Public Safety implemented. There are a lot of issues with the new system.

Ron added that the flat fee makes sense given the overhead involved with dispatch. A low number of calls doesn't really pay the bills for running a dispatch center.

P. Robinson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. R. Allen seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer presented a third quarter invoice from Shelburne for \$9,575.00.

P. Robinson motioned to pay Shelburne \$9,575.00. R. Allen seconded. Motion carried.

Communications

Ron reported that the St. Albans site was running on generator power for a couple of weeks. The reason was that the radio station that owned the site was sold and the new owner decided not to pay the power bill. Ron left a note on the billing invoice telling them not to turn off power without notifying GICMAA first.

Training

Ron reported that Gabby has the Frontline Females All Girls Camp website up and running. There is a two day training to be held on July 23rd and 24th. Not sure whether there are enough trainers to cover two days in a row of trainings.

Other Business

On the last Saturday of July or first Saturday of August, Ray is hosting a volunteer awareness support event for the public. Sheriff's Dept would set up and operate obstacle course from Kid's Camp and have a few cruisers set up. They would like to get some fire and EMS vehicles set up on site as well. This would be an opportunity for recruitment.

Al Getler put together two dates for an open house event but that might have been pushed back to September. There is another event called "touch a truck" that is in the works as well.

Ron said recently they used a huge pile of 2x4s set up like a Jenga set and they used the Jaws of Life to move the boards around. Members had a blast with it and nobody got hurt!

FEMA is putting on an older adult preparedness webinar for people 55 and over or the folks that serve the community. Age Well is sharing that out with community partners.

Shaun noted that VEM is offering an on-line Local Emergency Management Directors training on June 21st and 22nd. Good opportunity for Selectboard members to learn what their roles and responsibilities are as EMDs/EMCs.

Pat reported that South Hero's Local Emergency Plan was adopted. This lead to a discussion about Local Emergency Plan's and the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF). Shaun reviewed the ERAF program.

Ray asked if the Plans are made available on Town websites. Shaun recommended not to and the LEMPs are for official use only. A town can redact all the personal information should someone from the public request a copy of the plan under a public records request.

Public Comment - None

Adjourn

D. Maltais motioned to adjourn. R. Allen seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.