

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Association Meeting
GI-REMC
December 4, 2023 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Brandi Latimer (NH EMD), Pat Robinson (SHVFD), Ray Allen (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Desiree Maltais (GIR), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Nancy Frantz (SHR), Jacquie Kelley, (VDH), Carmine Centrella (ILM EMD), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Harry Schoppmann (VEM).

Vice-President Ron Kumetz chaired the meeting which began at 7:03 p.m.

Public Comment - None.

Changes to Agenda - None.

Minutes

Adam motioned to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Ray seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

There was a brief discussion about the annual budget. Ron reached out to Shelburne regarding expected costs but hasn't heard back. Melissa and Ron were going to meet about the budget once Shelburne provides information to them. Desiree has some numbers from Shelburne that she is using for Grand Isle Rescue's budget.

Grand Isle REMC

Vermont Emergency Management – Harry Schoppmann

- Mitigation funding is available under two different programs: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resistant Infrastructure Communities. There is a 25% local match. Local ARPA funding can be used as match in most cases.
See: <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation-for-more-information>.
- Training is available and may be found at Public Safety's Training Calendar.
See: <https://vem.vermont.gov/training/trainingprogram>
 - PIO Basics for Local Officials, 12/11 in Barre and 12/12 at Willison FD.
 - VT Alert Manager Training, 1/10/24, virtual.
 - L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP).
 - Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course, 2/14 – 2/15/2024, Virtual.Register via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/42d3f758-b375-4810-bee6-bfb433b0e867>
Contact Harry if you need help registering (Harry.Schoppman@vermont.gov).

Vermont Health Department – Jacquie Kelley, EP

- Currently working on "Stop the Bleed" training for 2024. The team is hoping to distribute "Stop the Bleed" kits. Libraries have been interested in the training.
- "See Bright at Night" campaign is underway to increase nighttime safety for Elementary, Middle and High School kids. The team will be distributing key chain lights and reflective wrist bands and talking about nighttime safety.
- Members attended a mental health first aid training last month. One member is interested in attending a train-the-trainer session and will be offering at least 2 classes in the region next year.

There was a discussion about the “Stop the Bleed” training, related resources and training materials.

GICMAA

Critical Incident Response Team – Pat Robinson

Pat reported that South Hero will be funding their own equipment. The equipment list for each member includes a ballistic vest, helmet, headlamp and battery. The cost he was quoted for is \$1,500 per person. The vests should last a long time. The goal is to have 5 members from each department be a member of the team. Ray added the Sheriff’s department wear their vests daily and they breakdown. They change them out every year or so.

Desiree expressed concerns about the costs to Grand Isle’s budget and their role. Ray and Adam replied that Grand Isle Rescue members wouldn’t be sent into a hot zone and wouldn’t need the equipment. Someone recommended adding tourniquets to the list.

Adam reported that he had a call in with Haley at Senator Sanders office about funding but has not heard back. Shaun will follow up with Homeland Security to check to see if there is a grant that might pay for these.

County Emergency Services Coordinator Position

Adam reported Bill was unable to attend tonight due to a conflict. Adam went with Bill to meet with some selectboards. Bill had successful conversations with the South Hero, Grand Isle and Alburgh Selectboards regarding supporting the Grand Isle County Emergency Services Coordinator position. Bill has “tacit support for fleshing out details of the proposal with hopes of having a fully developed position description, budget, etc. for review by the end of 2024”. He still needs to meet with the North Hero and Isle LaMotte Selectboards for their thoughts and will be seeking support from Mike and Bill when approaching their respective Boards. Adam voiced some concern that if the position is full-time, it will become more complicated in terms of indirect costs.

Resources - Winter Availability

Adam reported that he thought it would be beneficial to know that status of marine units.

South Hero’s boat is at the station and ready to go if needed.

North Hero’s whaler is in storage. The airboat is ready if needed.

Grand Isle Sheriff’s big boat is in storage, but smaller boats are available if needed.

Isle La Motte is probably winterized because otherwise it would be stationed in Alburgh which it currently isn’t.

Alburgh doesn’t have a boat currently.

Department Updates

Ron reported that Alburgh will be hosting a lithium battery training on January 22nd at the Alburgh Bingo Hall.

Carmine reported that the Isle La Motte School, which is owned by town, was inspected and certified by the Red Cross for use as a community shelter. He is continuing to work on the local emergency management plan (long form).

Mike reported that North Hero VFD has some new members. He met with the DRB and the revised permit for the new fire station is in place. He will ask Corinne what the town uses for their virtual meeting setup.

Pat reported that South Hero is having their annual light parade on December 16th.

Adjourn - Ray motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.