

Emergency Preparedness Commission Minutes - May 23, 2024

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mari Lochhaas, Dick Miller (virtually), Harry Bryant, Carol Lawton

Commissioners not in attendance:

Gary Burns, Jim Howe

Others in Attendance:

Gordon Pierce, Ken Miller, Ashley Thien

Approval of Minutes for May 23, 2024:

Mari moved to correct the minutes. During the discussion about moving the grill to the Cedar Terrace fire station she noted that we would not need to get an adaptor hose. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

New Business:

- Gordon Pierce and Ken Miller introduced themselves as prospective commissioners. Their applications will be presented at the next City Council meeting for approval.
- Ashley Thien, Curry County Emergency Manager, introduced herself. The County is rewriting their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and hopes to be finished by July 31. It was emphasized that all contact information, such as phone numbers, web sites, etc., should be tested before being listed in the EOP. The Curry County Emergency Management Department is now under the Board of Commissioners rather than the Sheriff. There was much discussion

about needed communication and coordination between Port Orford and the County. Harry will meet with Ashley to plan for joint Ham Radio operations. Dick was concerned about the need for shared radio frequencies. Ashley will check with the sheriff. Mari noted that many rural areas have no cell phone service and landlines may be interrupted in a disaster. She suggested that public radio stations (NPR, etc.) should be used to announce evacuation orders and other emergency information. FEMA representatives will be meeting with Ashley soon and it was suggested that EPC members be invited to the meeting. Carol asked Ashley if she was aware of the free satellite communications dish available through the state Department of Health and Human Services. She knows the person in charge of the program and will contact him to get more information. Dick asked about the county's stored food supplies. Ashley said their goal was to be 2-week ready but will rely heavily on the Red Cross during a disaster. They also have MOUs with Fred Meyer and Rays. Ashley then presented a box of booklets and pamphlets on emergency preparedness to distribute to the public.

- Carol read a text from Gary Burns proposing the creation of an emergency education program at the high school. There was general discussion about the idea. It will be discussed further at the next meeting when Gary will be able to present.

Old Business:

- Mari reported on the water cubes discussed at the last meeting. Currydale Farms sells a 275-gallon (2,200 pounds) cube for \$295. She also recommended purchasing oxygen kits (\$350-\$425 at Granger) instead of AEDs. She feels they are more useful.

Public Considerations:

None

Next Meeting:

June 27, 2024