

Westfield Local Emergency Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2022

1. **Introductions:** Deputy Fire Chief Eric Bishop called the meeting to order and announced the meeting is being recorded. The sign-in sheet and membership email list were passed around.
2. **Acceptance of March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** Deputy Bishop ascertained a motion to accept the minutes for April 6, 2022. Albert Masciadrelli made the motion. Tammy Tefft seconded the motion.
3. **COVID-19:** Numbers of positive cases have picked up since April. Numbers have been fluctuating and there have been more positive cases being reported from group settings such as nursing homes and companies.
4. **Grant funds for LEPC:** The required exercise was held on April 19, 2022. The exercise went well.
 - a. **Follow up Info:** The positive outcomes of the exercise were the smoke machine made a nice plume of smoke and response was in a timely fashion. The WG&E performed admirably. They responded promptly and the hazard was eliminated prior to the need of “bussing students”. The negative outcomes were the wind blew the smoke over the Mass Pike, but it didn’t cause an issue as it dissipated quickly. The location where the “leak” occurred was right next to a generator. If power was cut, would the generator come on and be an ignition source. Items to work on included how to have the students evacuate with the school without using the PA or the fire alarm.
 - b. **Ideas for Distribution of Funds –** Batteries for Police Department, meter for Westfield State University, and thermal imagers for Westfield Fire Department
5. **Peter Miller, Director of Community Development:** Target has filed a draft Environmental Impact Report for a 530,000 square foot warehouse development on Falcon Dr. A pre-development plan for a possible battery storage facility, on Medeiros Way, is looking at property near C&S. The facility would be connected to the grid, take excess power off the grid during slow times and sell it back during the peak.
6. **Upcoming City Events:**
 - a. Fast 5K is being held on May 21, 2022.
 - b. Possible Firework celebration could be held on July 2 or 3, 2022.
7. **Past Events:** No events to discuss.
8. **Emergency Management:** A new assessment has been requested by MEMA. The last one was completed in 2015. The assessment will be held at the Airport and will discuss major evacuations. A small meeting will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022 with MEMA providing logistics. A larger Zoom meeting will be held at a later date for other departments to join in.

The tabletop exercise scheduled for May 17, 2022 at MEMA headquarters in Agawam has been postponed. Accounts have been set up for the grant money Emergency Management received.
9. **Report from MRC and CERT:** MRC and CERT will be at the Fast 5K Road race. MRC will have their med tents set up.

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10. Tier 2 Updates: Nothing new to report on Tier 2.

11. MEMA: CEMP plans are being worked on. The tabletop was postponed. A new date will be announced once confirmation is received from some participating communities. The tabletop will be hurricane themed and to see how well the CEMP plans work.

Link to MEMA course calendar website <https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS/trainingCalendar.do>

12. New Business: No new business.

13. Departmental Reports:

Airport – There is a possible multi-agency exercise being planned for the fall.

Baystate Noble – Fuel tanks in Lot C are being removed and replaced. Back-up tanks will be used for 7 weeks. The parking lot is closed in the meantime. There was a COVID outbreak on the locked behavioral unit but in general COVID cases have decreased.

Dispatch – The (grant’s required) exercise went smooth but there is concern if a real event Dispatch would be inundated with calls. There is also the inability to talk to different agencies due to not having inter-op channels in a large scale event.

DPW – Union Street and Old Holyoke Road will be paved this spring and summer. New Communications will be coming regarding sanitary sewer overflow.

Flood – Army Corp performed an evaluation of the Little River levee. Appointments to the Board have not been made and board membership still remains with only 2 people. Bills for Flood Control Commission are now being sent from Engineering to the Mayor’s Office for signing.

Mayor’s Office – Please check the City’s website for press releases for updates from his office. Remember to be cautious on the roadways in the areas where there is road repair and utility upgrades. An update for the Mayor is needed regarding the status of the inventory list of consumables, where they are stored and how to access the inventory list. A thank you to all departments and companies for participating in these meetings.

Mestek – Business as usual.

WPD – The Auxiliary Police Unit may need to be dissolved. More information should be received in next couple of weeks.

WSU – Last day of finals is Friday and commencement ceremonies are next week in Springfield.

Other Dept.:

A message from Representative Velis’ Office was to not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Deputy Bishop ascertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Albert Masciadrelli made the motion.

Jack Leary seconded the motion.

11:40 a.m. – Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting – June 1, 2022

