

July 16, 2015
City Council Chambers
100 E Ave A
Jerome, Idaho

Attendance

Baldwin Camin – LEPC/JPD, **Clint Blackwood** – Jerome County EMA, **Mike Dahmer**- Jerome County EMA, **Gary Davis** – IBHS, **Larry Goolsby** – Jerome County EMA/ARC, **Thomas Hughes** – Jerome City Fire Dept, **Bill Allred** – Jerome City Fire Dept, **Diana Ochsner** – Red Cross, **Cathy Roemer** – Jerome County Commissioner, **Staci Schneider** – Intermountain Communications, **Glenna Lawrence** – Jerome County OEM Assistant,

Welcome

Baldwin Camin, Chairman, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and invited members to introduce themselves.

LEPC

Minutes for June 2015 LEPC meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Old Business

Clint gives us grant updates and the only thing actually going on with the grant is payment on the *All Hazard Mitigation Plan* with grant funding. The radio Tower Project is very rapidly progressing: the foundation work has been completed, the tower has been transported here as we speak and it will be erected next week. Once we submit a plan of payment to the contactors that will take care of our obligations with the grants and pretty much take what is left in our budget.

Mike Dahmer interjects and comments that as a professional engineer he objects to the construction process and makes several allegations and states that we have not followed proper procedures and policies concerning the use of an Idaho Engineer approved set of wet stamped plans in the approval process and subsequent utilization of Idaho Licensed contractors in the construction of the tower. After a short vehement discussion he excused himself from the meeting.

Clint comments and says we have had engineered stamped plans throughout the entire process of the building permitting and inspection process. We have an Idaho licensed contractor doing the work and they have a great deal of experience putting in over 2000 of these radio towers.

Cathy Roemer says she has always felt comfortable in supporting the radio tower project in spite of the few occasions Mike has come to her with concerns. Cathy says she can't make a decision on her own about any of his concerns without him coming before the board.

Cathy suggested that as a group, maybe the LEPC By-Laws should be read over and determined if changes are necessary and take a second look to see how the committee feels about the functions and re-assess the by-laws if needed. Gary Davis says that maybe a sub-committee would be best to go over the by-laws then bring it before the LEPC group for a vote.

Baldwin Camin made the suggestion that as LEPC group we should make the Public Documents available to us. Clint says if anyone wants to come to his office he will make it available to anyone that wants to review it. Clint also says anyone can go to the Planning and Zoning Office and review the official building plans and any other documents that are a matter of public record by making a public records request.

Cathy says that the more protection and accountability we can put in place, the better off we will be to protect us. She says the County spent money on the Tower project also, and that is why there were visits to them because County dollars actually being spent. Cathy says because of that reason she has supported the project all along.

Clint says we have Grant Money but it doesn't cover everything. He is still behind the project because it will be a long term savings in that we will have redundant communication capability, entirely under the ownership and control of the county. Clint says it won't be our primary source of communication but will be a secondary source and a redundant source of communication capability. Right now our primary communication is through SIRCOMM and we plan to continue that way, but this just gives us another tool to assure the safety and security of Jerome County.

The question was brought up by the LEPC group; because Mike was adamant about what he was talking about, where does he get his facts and do we have answers to every question and comment that he made? He has some level of expertise and it is a concern as to where he gets his facts or information from. Clint says that there is one statement he agrees with and that is; concrete does not reach its ultimate strength until 28 days of cure time. But, Clint says; every project he has been involved in as a building inspector for 13 years, he has never seen anybody put in concrete then wait 28 days before they went to the second level of construction.

New Business

Clint reports on the Long-term Power Outage TTX exercise held on July 8th. In Looking at the overall or long term power outage and how it would impact in all aspects of the community. They went through scenarios on what could, would or should be done. As we all know we are very dependent on Electricity as a society. We are looking at; if we don't have a primary power grid we are going to have to look at generators, battery source, or other methods of maintaining society. A long term power outage could wipe out every electronic mechanism in everything in existence, from cars, cell phones, etc. etc., everything generated by electricity. We can be pushed back to the 18th century era.

Clint lets the LEPC group know about the upcoming County Fair which is starting Tuesday August 4th to Saturday August 9th. We will have a booth once again and asking for volunteers to assist in the booth. Our primary objective will be passing out more of the Community Emergency Preparedness workbook and guidelines. We will also push the Map Your Neighborhood Program and to increase awareness and the activity of the citizens preparedness in Jerome County. Clint reminds us that during a disaster it will be up to the individual and their level of preparedness to take care of themselves as a means of survival.

Presentation

An abbreviated presentation on Map Your Neighborhood was given by Clint. What is the MYN (Map Your Neighborhood Program?) It is a Citizen Corps Initiative Program to help citizens organize a timely response to a disaster within their own neighborhood. . First we

need to identify the physical dimensions and who is in the neighborhood. Then one simply invites the neighbors into your home and present a short and simple training session. Then by following up with an organizational meeting your neighborhood can be better prepared. MYN gives you and your neighbors a plan to protect your home and provide for your own needs during a disaster. Clint says MYN focuses on using the “Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness Among Neighbor’s” booklet. With the booklet neighbors can learn the; “9 steps- “Immediately Following Disaster”, “Neighborhood Gathering Site and care Center”, “Neighborhood Skills and Equipment Inventory”, “Guidelines for Neighborhood Mapping”, “Your Neighborhood Map and Contact List”, and “HELP/OK cards”.

Clint says his vision as Emergency Manager is he would like to have every neighborhood organized where they have one person as the contact and spokesperson for each Map Your Neighborhood group. Each neighborhood spokesman could coordinate with other groups; each with a shared response and bring back the information to Emergency Management in an actual emergency so we can have a rapid situational awareness of what has happened within the community. This will help us to prioritize the response and resources and help in the declaration as we request the needs for assistance. Clint wants Jerome County to be prepared by knowing our neighbors, taking courses through Emergency Management, maybe a CERT training course, first aid course, but all of these things together help to get things done without the panic. Clint believes in the people of the county and knows there are people that care and leaders in the County that can take the lead and help Jerome County be a safer place during a disaster. This will be a focus point at the upcoming fair with a sign-up sheet with interested people.

Up Coming Events –

Course: V-0036 – Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – The Psychology of Disaster: Managing Behavioral Issues in Disasters and Providing Crises Support on July 29 at the St Luke’s Hospital Oak room #3, 10 am to 2 pm. Register at idahoprepares.com.

Training Opportunities / Exercises:

These will be posted on the www.idahoprepares.com website for easy enrollment.
September 9, ‘15 – Short Term Recovery

There are many different training opportunities available that may be helpful for first responders. Independent study online courses are available through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study. These courses are available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>. EMI also offers the virtual tabletop exercises (VTTX); sponsored by South Central Public Health District

Agency Reports:

Thomas Hughes – Reports of a gas leak on North Lincoln; while they were putting in a larger water line near the school area, turned out It wasn’t a gas line after all. Also they had a report of an Accident on the interstate which could have been a lot worse had they not been wearing seatbelts. They just recently had a fire in the jail house and handled that quickly and effectively.

Thomas says recently he had to go back to old school technology, when the phones were down due to a cut fiber line. He had to track Clint down by walking to his office and knock on his door,

find him, and discuss a way to ensure communications if anything come up that they may have to get in touch with him, inasmuch as they were unable to contact him via landline or cell phone. Being advised of the situation the EM office began monitoring radio traffic as that capability was still intact.

Cathy Roemer – Reports and comments that when the Jail is completed and the Sheriff's Department vacates some of the offices in the court house, the Radio Amateur group has requested that they one of the office for their use and further asks for security access 24/7/365. She says the Sheriff came in with them and talked it over and sounds like it might be workable by allowing them some access but blocking them off totally from the rest of the Court House. But their request will probably be at the bottom of the list for availability. It is under way and Cathy says she is more open to it than she was before.

Cathy also gives us a little update on the jail, which is due to open 2/25/16. She speaks to the county budget saying "we are only a million dollars over what we were last year and looking pretty good."

Our Next Jerome LEPC Meeting

August 20, 2015

1pm – 2pm

Jerome City Council Chambers