

Westfield Local Emergency Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2021

1. **Introductions:** Deputy Fire Chief Eric Bishop called the meeting to order and announced the meeting is being recorded. The sign-in sheet and email membership list was passed around.
2. **Recertification of the LEPC:** MEMA is missing information regarding the tabletop exercises. MEMA needs the LEPC to have one tabletop exercise. Two tabletop exercises were completed with the airport (simulated plane crash and one other). Copies of these will be sent to Scott Flebotte and he will have the recertification application be sent through for completion.
3. **COVID-19:** Currently the cases have leveled out.
4. **Peter Miller, Director of Community Development:** Peter Miller was not able to attend the meeting.
5. **Upcoming City Events:**
 - a. PumpkinFest is scheduled for October 16, 2021.
 - b. Fireworks will be held October 9, 2021 at South Middle School.
6. **Past Events:**
 - a. WFD 9/11 Ceremony – Broad Street was closed to traffic. The ceremony was well attended.
7. **Emergency Management:** Emergency Management is looking for a new office location. They have moved out of the Tech Center. A request to share an office with Al Giguere, Flood Commissioner, was sent to the Mayor and Personnel Director.
8. **Report from MRC and CERT:** Fifteen new candidates have signed up for the next CERT class. Ed Mello spoke with the Superintendent of Schools regarding a grant program to help for girls with self-esteem and abuse. Ed is looking for a place for this program to be held. Several people have volunteered to help with this program once it starts.
9. **Tier 2 Updates:** No new Tier 2 reports have been received and all current reports have been added to the City Share drive.
10. **MEMA:** Scott Flebotte is our new MEMA contact. Webinars and workshops are being scheduled. The workshops will be on emergency action plans and event action plans. An Emergency Management Academy is being planned for next year as MEMA discovered there wasn't many trainings available for Emergency Managers, EMDs and Deputy EMDs. CERT classes for CERT teams will be scheduled also. EMPG grant deadline is October 29, 2021. Link to MEMA course calendar website <https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS/trainingCalendar.do>

CITY OF WESTFIELD

11. New Business: No new business to discuss.

12. Departmental Reports:

Airport – Airport has been very busy with charters.

On November 3, 2021, a SRT training has been scheduled with the Westfield Police Department.

In April or May 2022, ANG Base Emergency Management & the airport will be holding a full-scale exercise.

Baystate Noble – Don and Bruce recently retired. Kris Kennedy is the new Facilities Manager and Josh Towse is the new Emergency Manager.

The COVID numbers are dropping.

There are ongoing maintenance projects such as roofing.

There is a City project of improving the sidewalk which will occur in front of the Emergency Department next year.

DPW – City View Road was closed by the State. The design and permit has been completed for the bridge structure.

This could be a six-to-eight-month closure. The following day, Loomis Street at the Southwick Line, was closed.

The department will be using brine treatments (liquid treatments) for pre-treating the roads prior to a winter storm.

Flood – The flood control pump station has a problem with a backflow prevention valve inside a concrete discharge structure on a gravity storm water pipe. The replacement prevention valve for a 54” diameter pipe would cost between \$30,000 to \$35,000 and doesn’t include installation.

Tonight, there is a special meeting at City Hall in regards to a restaurant wanting to be constructed in a flood plain in between Verizon and Applebee’s on East Main St.

A second item on the agenda is a discussion on the repair of the culverts on the lower section of the Little River levee.

There will be a second seeding of the 10,000 square feet where the trees and brush were removed from the Little River levee.

Mestek – The factory shutdown for three days due to a COVID outbreak. Before the factory reopened, employees needed to receive a negative test.

SWWT – They are working with several entities after the slope failures. A repair is in place for the slope failure at Dam 2.

The emergency response plans are being updated and will be distributed.

In spring of 2022, a spill response exercise will be held on-site with the DEP. Westfield and other watershed communities will be invited to this exercise.

WFD – Department continues to perform as normal. A couple employees did contract COVID and these were employees who were vaccinated.

WG&E – There were a few employees who tested positive for COVID. One area of a department was sent home as a precaution.

WPD – Four employees in the last 30 days had tested positive for COVID. These employees were also vaccinated. Air quality testing was performed in the building and the department is waiting for the mold testing to be done.

CITY OF WESTFIELD

WSU – The University is preparing for the Red sox playoffs. Lighting will be installed on the campus.

Deputy Bishop ascertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jack Leary made the motion.

Mark Goodniss seconded the motion.

10:10 a.m. – Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting – November 3, 2021