

MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, July 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:08

Members in attendance:

Penelope Love, Peggy Grant, Richard Taylor, Robert Walker, Garry Kotvasz, Paul Petrie, Bill Missal, Rose Ristovski, John Huppert, Kevin Nowaczyk, Daniel Sullivan, David Pastick,

Guests in attendance:

Ken Henline, Sue McCormack, Alexandra King, Amy Bluhm, Liz Reimink

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made.

Minutes -

Minutes for May and June were reviewed, and David Weisz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Bill Missal, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – No expenditures were incurred, fund balance remains at \$70,231.65. Robert Walker made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Bill Missal, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Correspondence –

None

HEPC – The HEPC exercise with all the hospitals last month, a radiological event, and the after-action reports are being completed; keeping an eye on all infectious diseases; reports from the hospitals have moved from daily to weekly

HazMat – One incident, I-80 and Burr; a semi carrying powdered concrete ended up on its side; John and Bill instructed a class for the County janitorial staff in Hazardous-Communication; Newton County EMA director wants to schedule an Operations Level HazMat class; Bill and John attended a meeting with the Kankakee river basin regarding flooding meetings; Lake county Fair August 3, some buildings have been removed, so placement of equipment will be different; working on a HazMat travel trailer for training, several fire departments are interested in using the trailer when it is completed; a discussion about the future of the Niemeier-Quinn award.

HEALTH –, Nothing new, the mobile vaccine unit is available through the state if COVID-19 vaccines are needed, the mobile unit will be at the European Market in Portage this weekend; if you have an event, you can reach out to the State for the mobile unit.

CORONER – A lot of training happening, Chief Investigator attended a conference in Vegas to keep his certification, and made a presentation to the Veterans Village in Gary that was very well attended; Homicide numbers – 2023 Year to date the County is at 38, last year at this time we were at 58; suicides are up a little, year to date we are at 51, (9 of the suicides were veterans), at this time last year we were at 45; overdose deaths are at 82 year to date, last year at this time we were at 110, however, 12-15 of this year's deaths are pending toxicology, 23 of the overdoses were fentanyl, 37 were fentanyl and cocaine, nine were cocaine, two were Cocaine/opioid, ten were amphetamine, and four were xylazine; motor vehicle accidents are 30 year to date, no numbers from last year; investigated over 900 cases and completed 370 autopsies this year.

ARC – In June the Disaster Action Team had 14 responses, which brings them to 82 responses year to date June included 7 single-family fires, 4 multi-family fires, and 3 Miscellaneous responses; they opened 22 recovery cases during the same period; Sound the alarm, appreciation to EMA for assisting with the installs; Thank you to Garry for radio training, he provided training for the ARC staff and some local amateur radio operators in the use of public safety radios; United way networking event was successful; please see the handouts for additional Red Cross information; Director Walker asked if the Red Cross or Health Department were preparing for the heat wave, locations can be made available or canteen services if it becomes necessary,

INDOT – No Report

Old business The Red Wave vapor identifier discussion will be tabled until August.

New Business – LEPC workshops will be after the meetings each month.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bill Missla; the motion was seconded by Penelope Love, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 10:02

Kevin Nowaczyk, Chair

Paul Petrie, Secretary