

MEDINA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 19th, 2025

Chairman DeForest called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Carol Carter, Carl DeForest, Rick Dumperth, Brian Guccion, Steve Hambley, Dennis Hanwell, Aaron Harrison, Matt Hiscock, Jack Swedyk, and Larry Walters.

Other persons present: Ben Nau, Gregory Bartoe, and Cheyenne Ralosky.

Intern: Mr. Ben Nau introduced the current EMA intern, Cheyenne Ralosky. Ms. Ralosky is enrolled in Akron University pursuing a degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. She hopes to find a job locally after graduating.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Commissioner Hambley moved to approve the minutes from January 15th, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dumperth. A voice vote showed the motion passing with Mr. Guccion and Mr. Hiscock abstaining.

Resolutions:

- Resolution 2025-03 – Resolution 2025-03 was presented to the committee for approval. The resolution approves the declaration of a Laserpoint3 vinyl printer as excess property and authorizes the sale of the printer to the public via internet auction.
 - A motion to approve resolution 2025-03 was made by Commissioner Harrison and was seconded by Chief Walters. A voice vote showed the motion passing unanimously.

Purchases: None

Old Business:

- Advisory Group Meeting – The annual county wide Advisory Group met on January 29, 2025. At this meeting, Commissioner Harrison, Mr. Dumperth, Mr. Guccion, and Chief Walters were selected to serve on the EMA Executive Committee, which resulted in no changes to the composition of the Executive Committee from the prior year. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee will also remain unchanged as well with Mr. DeForest continuing to serve as Chair and Chief Walters as Vice Chair.

New Business:

- EMA Annual Report – The EMA Annual Report was made available and anyone with any questions was requested to contact Mr. Nau. It was noted that team members have remained relatively stable across the various All Hazards teams.
- EMA Activities – Mr. Nau stated a presentation was recently given to the Medina Safety Council regarding the BleachTech Incident in January 2024. The presentation was made by Mr. Nau along with personnel from the Seville Guilford Fire Department and BleachTech. Mr. Nau noted trainings recently completed included Ice Rescue and MedDive. The Ice Rescue training received media attention, including being the subject of local podcast. Upcoming trainings and exercises include a HazMat Safety Officer class starting on March

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1st, a Dive Rescue 1 class beginning on March 4th, and a Volunteer Reception Center exercise on March 15th.

- Incidents – Mr. Nau informed the Executive Committee there was another hydrochloric acid spill at BleachTech. This spill was smaller than the previous spill in January 2024 and BleachTech handled this spill internally. Mr. Nau noted after the January 2024 spill that BleachTech has expended a lot of money on safety improvements and HazMat response training for its personnel. In addition, Mr. Dumperth asked about a Nitric Acid spill. Mr. Nau explained that a spill occurred at Zion Industries on Grafton Road in Valley City after a compound involving Nitric Acid was mixed incorrectly. The initial spill was contained in the building of Zion Industries. The HazMat Team responded and neutralized the Nitric Acid. The company later had an outside contractor come in and clean up the scene.
- Radio Tower Project – Mr. Nau presented the Executive Committee with an update on the Radio Tower project and provided a map of the tower's proposed location near Hubbard Valley Road. Mr. Nau stated the County has hired GPD Group as the consultant for the Radio Tower project. Mr. Nau noted that no action was required by the Executive Committee at this time as environmental or other preliminary studies are being conducted. At some point the Executive Committee will have to take action to approve the use of the grant of approximately \$200,000 awarded to EMA for the project. Mr. Guccion asked if the grant/project could not materialize due to the current political environment. Mr. Nau responded that the grant funds were recently frozen for a short time. However, the grant funds are currently not frozen and available for use. Mr. Nau also stated that EMA was trying to get approval for a six (6) month extension to utilize the grant funds. The extension remains pending approval.
- Grants – Mr. Nau noted EMA has drawn down on the EMPG grant, which is used to cover EMA payroll. In addition, Mr. Nau stated the LEPC grant application has been submitted.
- NFIP – Mr. Nau said a submission has been made to renew our National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is a community rating system that allows homeowners to get a discount on their flood insurance. This submission is made every five (5) years.

Board Members:

- Mr. Guccion announced that he would be retiring from his position with the Executive Committee and his Township Trustee position with Sharon Township effective April 1, 2025.
- Commissioner Harrison said the 2026 Advisory Group Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28, 2026. More information will be provided as that date gets closer.
- Commissioner Hambley stated that a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Solid Waste District would be meeting tomorrow (February 20, 2025). The TAC hopes to develop a plan by the end of the year to handle waste issues, including household hazardous waste.
- Mayor Hanwell thanked Mr. Guccion for his years of dedicated service and leadership.

Mayor Hanwell made the motion to adjourn at 8:48 am, seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Voice vote showed the motion passing unanimously.