

SUBJECT: APPROVING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 4.50.030 (A) LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION.

AGENDA OF: September 3, 2024

ASSEMBLY ACTION: Adopted without objection 09/10/24 - BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Introduce and set for public hearing.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Casey Laughlin</u> <small>Signed by: Casey Laughlin</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/13/2024</div>
Department Director	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Ken Barkley</u> <small>Signed by: Ken Barkley</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/14/2024</div>
Finance Director	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Cheyenne Heindel</u> <small>Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/20/2024</div>
Borough Attorney	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Nicholas Spiropoulos</u> <small>Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/20/2024</div>
Borough Manager	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Michael Brown</u> <small>Signed by: Mike Brown</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/20/2024</div>
Borough Clerk	<div style="text-align: center;"> X <u>Lonnie McKechnie</u> <small>Signed by: Lonnie McKechnie</small> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">8/22/2024</div>

ATTACHMENT (S): Ordinance Serial No. 24-089 (3 pp)
LEPC Draft Minutes (6 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City of Houston dissolved their local police department, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) still shows that seat as vacant on the membership roster. Considering there is no longer a police department in Houston, the LEPC would like to update their membership and change the Houston Law Enforcement seat to that of another environmental/business/technical seat. This category of vacancy will offer a broader scope in terms of qualified and available candidates.

At the July 17, 2024 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, the board voted to amend the composition to remove the Houston Law

Enforcement seat, and to add an additional seat in the category of environmental/business/technical.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

The administration recommends approval of the attached legislation which will approve an ordinance amending MSB 4.50.030 (A) Local Emergency Planning Committee composition.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was called to order by Vice Chairman Chmielewski at 5:30 p.m.

Advisory Board members in attendance establishing a quorum were:

Frank Adams
Bea Adler
Donna Anthony
Jason Bauer
Simon Brown

Mike Chmielewski
Casey Cook
Rene' Dillow
Michael Gavarrete
Kevin Gunnip

Ken Hudson
Michael Lopez
Shelia Olson
Regg Simon

Also in attendance were: Brenda McCain and Connie Erickson, Willow CERT; Talon Boeve, MSB EOC; Erin Leaders, AK-DEC; Aviva Braun, National Weather Service; Mikal Hawk, US Army; and Mariko Kays, Public Health.

A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no objections to the approval of the April 17, 2024 minutes as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Workgroup Review

No report. Moved forward to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Seat Revision (Houston Police)

Ms. Laughlin stated: Borough Mayor DeVries has recommended this committee review options for revising the Houston representative seat considering the City of Houston no longer has a police department. The City of Houston's Mayor Cole was involved in the e-mail exchange discussing this and no objections were heard from him regarding the revision. Changing the position to another Environmental/Business/Technical position would open it up to a wider range of applicants than if we were to change it to that of a specific occupation/agency. If the board agrees to revise the position, she would create the legislation to move it forward to the assembly for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Bauer moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, to amend the Houston Law Enforcement representative seat to that of an additional Environmental/Business/Technical position. All were in favor, none were opposed.

EOP/Hazard Assessment Review

Mr. Bauer stated: They are beginning the process to review the borough's Emergency Operations Plans. He has forwarded a couple of them to the committee's workgroup members for review. There are 35 annexes under the borough's EOP so he would like to meet with the workgroup to come up with a plan on how to work through them. The goal is to have them reviewed quarterly and to also send them in to the State Special Emergency Response Committee (SERC) for their review.

AGENCY REPORTS / GUEST COMMENTS

Emergency Management – Casey Cook

There is a lot going on in the borough right now and they are staying engaged and involved in everything. Keeping things moving forward.

Chickaloon Tribal Police – Donna Anthony

1. She has her lieutenant working on uploading their SPA's to the borough's emergency planning.
2. She is sending one of their officers out for emergency technical training to become an instructor. He will be able to train their officers to become ETT's.
3. They have been dealing with the Mat-River's erosion and washout areas of the Glenn Highway.
4. They were in the Chitna area during the road collapse due to all the water. They were working with Chitna during the fishing season.
5. The Glenn Highway, once you leave Sutton up until about Mile 90, is in terrible shape due to erosion and rocks falling onto the roadway. They are looking at things a little closer in terms of response.
6. They are looking to add Starlink to their patrol cars since they are sometimes in remote areas with no service.

Matanuska Electric Association – Frank Adams

They had a physical attack on their fiber line which fed their response for their plant out in Eklutna. They repaired it once, then had to go back and repair it again and put in some redundancies. It appeared to be an intentional physical attack and he wonders if anyone else has experienced any similar issues on their fiber lines.

Vice Chairman Chmielewski stated that every two weeks he does an internet weather report with cyber security expert Peter House. They put that information on the Big Cabbage Radio / Radio Free Palmer website.

National Weather Service - Aviva Braun

Ms. Braun shared her screen and discussed in detail the new forecast zones that they are implementing on September 10th. They are more than doubling the zones, determining what types each zone needs, and will get into micro-climates. The names of the zones and the zone numbers will be changing. This information is available on their social media page and their website, and they have made notifications via e-mail. They have a story map on their website which has links to everything. They will be working with the native heritage centers to see if they can name these regions with the local Alaska native terms to honor those communities.

Emergency Operations Center – Jason Bauer

1. He has been working with Erin Leaders on updating the State Emergency Response Commissions manual. He requested that Erin be added to the LEPC Plans Review Workgroup. Ms. Leaders said she was interested and would need to get the approval from work.
2. The fairgrounds in Palmer have several facilities they can use to house animals during an evacuation however, the facilities don't have any backup generators or any way to remain warm and have electricity if the power went out. He would like to get some support for them, but since they are privately owned, they don't qualify for grant funding. If anyone has any ideas on this, please let him know.

Willow CERT – Brenda McCain

1. A lot of what their team does is to provide information to the communities at public events for safety and emergency preparedness.
2. On May 4th they partnered with the Red Cross in the Wildland Fire Preparedness Day at the Willow Fire Department.
3. On May 18th they did their 4th Su-Valley Emergency Fair which was hosted by Willow, Talkeetna, and Trapper Creek CERT. There were over 30 exhibitors inside and outside the community center. They truly appreciate the support of the Mat-Su Borough EOC.
4. On June 29th Talon taught the CERT team the Crowd Management course. They were able to use the skills they learned during the 4th of July parade.
5. July 12th was Community Safety Day at Willow Farmers Market. They partnered with Willow/Caswell fire departments, Division of Forestry, Mat-Su Borough EOC, and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (who brought the earthquake simulator). They had a great experience getting the word out there.
6. Next will be their 5th year at Houston Founders Day.

Enstar – Michael Gavarette

He has taken a compliance position at Enstar and is cross training his replacement, Wendy Kolberg. She couldn't be here tonight but will be taking over the Enstar seat on the LEPC. He has enjoyed his time on this committee.

Wasilla Police Department – Michael Lopez

1. He has identified a need to include and solicit future inputs from Mat-Com Public Safety Dispatch regarding the recent 911 outage. That outage gave them a good opportunity to exercise their secondary and tertiary emergency communications plans, and some secondary outreach to be able to provide immediate access to 911 emergency medical and law enforcement services throughout the Valley. He thinks the issue was technological and not something criminal or nefarious intent. It was eye opening for them within the City of Wasilla Police Department.
2. They are moving forward with a 5,000 gallon fuel system which will allow them to operate patrol vehicles in the event of a disaster.

Matanuska Telephone Association – Regg Simon

1. Survey and land clearing crews are running into upset (and sometimes hostile) homeowners disputing utility easements/property lines. Troopers were called one time due to a homeowner releasing an aggressive canine on a surveyor. He encourages everyone to call MTA's Right-of-Way Department if they have any questions.
2. There have been a few outages in the past month, mostly due to cut or damaged cables from equipment operators. Outages are typically resolved within an hour or two.
3. Please remember to call 8-1-1 before digging or operating equipment at your home.

Chickaloon Village – Shelia Olson

1. When she gets back to the office next week, they will look to schedule the next Emergency Management Planning Committee meeting and getting back on track.
2. For Mara Club, they did their field day training at the Menard Center in the parking lot by the pavilion. They were set up to show anyone who stopped by how to do parks on the air and transmissions. They had their antenna trailer and communications trailers set up. They had about 50 people show up, and they did their annual picnic.

Mat-Su Borough EOC – Talon Boeve

1. They have a 334 Disaster Preparedness and Survival course coming up on August 9th and 10th being held at the Mat-Su EOC. It is a two-day course open to the public and there are no prerequisites for it. It is 6 hours each day and there is no fee associated with it. If anyone is interested, she can send the registration link to them.
2. Planning efforts for the 16th Annual Mat-Su Preparedness Expo are in full swing. Invites for the exhibitors and vendors go out this week. If you don't receive an invitation and want to be a part of the expo, please reach out to her. There is also a Facebook event people can share, and they will have flyers to post and share digitally. The event takes place at the Menard Center on Saturday, September 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The LEPC has always been a big part of the event so she hopes that will continue.
3. The week of October 21st, the borough is hosting a 449 ICS Instructor course. This is the course for folks interested in teaching ICS 300 or 400 or the ICS for Elected Officials. There are quite a few prerequisites for it, but if you are interested, please reach out to our office. They still need a few folks to fill the class.

Community Representative – Bea Adler

As Talon mentioned, we are planning for the Expo in September. We hope to have something new and different each time and they have some great ideas for this year. It's a family friendly event and will be both indoors and outdoors. They estimated about 2,000 people attended last year and had about 73 exhibitors. She hopes Aviva Braun will have their new maps ready as it would be a opportunity to get those publicized.

Mat-Su Public Health - Rene Dillow

1. It's a good time to make sure you are up to date on your TDAP vaccination. They are seeing a lot of cases of whooping cough in all ages in the Valley. Pertussis is also known as whooping cough and the hundred-day cough. Usually, only about 30% of vaccinated people will catch it, but even if they do, it's a lot less of a problem if you are vaccinated.
2. They are seeing some COVID cases, and it's usually related to travel. The new variants are not making people as sick as they did in the past as most people have immunity. There isn't an updated vaccine for new variants.

State Defense Force – Simon Brown II

1. The State Defense Force provided traffic management for the 4th of July parade in Wasilla.
2. They are now watching the fire season around the state and will stand by in case anything gets out of control.
3. With all the rain they are having they are standing by for possible flooding.

MARA – Ken Hudson

1. He was with the Red Cross at the 4th of July parade.
2. He is interested in the Star Link program. Vice Chairman Chmielewski stated that if anyone was interested in having a conversation with him about Starlink, they can reach him at manager@bigcabbageradio.com.

103rd Civil Support Team - Mikal Hawk

He provided a brochure on the mission, capabilities, and resources of the 103rd Civil Support Team. He explained the mission to support civil authorities at a domestic, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and high explosive incident site by identifying those agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support. An example would be assisting law enforcement with an investigation where they found a laboratory or a large number of bulk items that they can't identify. They have a modeling program that can help with assessing the terroristic possibility or public safety consequences. They have 22 technicians that are hazmat qualified and an extensive mobile laboratory. There is no cost to the community or agencies for their assistance, and they are quick with their capabilities. They can self-support on location for 72 hours and can provide internet and network connections as well as assist with radio interoperability between systems.

Radio Free Palmer – Mike Chmielewski

They serve some remote areas and that is why he has become involved in researching Starlink. Most of their focus has been on redundancy and the two aspects are getting good information and being able to share it. They are a community radio station, their purpose is to share good information, and they want to be able to extend that service out into the remote areas beyond Sutton. They do a lot of work around various aspects of emergencies, particularly with cyber-attacks. If anyone is interested in learning more about Starlink, reach out to him.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Membership Updates

Ms. Laughlin stated:

1. Kathy Cramer had to resign from her seat as the Fire Service representative. Ms. Laughlin will attempt to find a replacement for that seat.
2. She reached out to Alaska State Trooper Captain, Andy Gorn in Palmer regarding the long vacant AST seat. Captain Gorn expressed interest in the seat and advised he would submit an application.

Vice Chair Election

Ms. Laughlin stated: The Vice Chair position will be up for election at our October meeting.

Mike Chmielewski

1. It has been a while since we discussed the Alaska State Fair, and it will be over by the next time we meet. Just a reminder that the radio station broadcasts live everyday from the fair at Raven Hall from noon to 5:00 p.m. If you have booth at the fair let him know and they can promo the fact that you are present at the fair. They will promo the Expo at the fair.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Vice Chairman Chmielewski announced that the next meeting date would be October 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Chmielewski, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Casey Laughlin, Secretary