



TOWN OF EAGLE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 30, 2010
APPROVED MINUTES

Chairman Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Kwiatkowski; Supervisors Malek, West, Davis and Rasmussen. Also present were Treasurer Pasterski, Clerk Pepper, Fire Chief Heim, Village Police Chief Ehlers, Senator Neil Kedzie, Representative Stephen Nass, Waukesha County Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Bill Stolte and Skip Sharpe with Waukesha County Emergency Management, and Project Recovery Outreach Workers Jamie and Florence.

Chairman Kwiatkowski introduced the people present and explained the procedure for tonight's meeting. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Project Recovery, local church groups, and volunteers are available to help residents. Information is available in the Board Room as well as the Town Hall office. Information is also available on the Town's website.

Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Village sustained \$20 million dollars in damages; the Town sustained an estimated \$1.75 million dollars in damages, which includes damage to fifty-five homes (55) and six (6) businesses. Accessory structures were not included in the estimated figure.

Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that clean-up efforts have already begun for brush debris. Chairman Kwiatkowski presented a list of municipal volunteers and volunteer private contractors as follows: Town of Troy, Town of Darien, Village of Williams Bay, Walworth County, Village of Palmyra, Town of East Troy, Town of LaGrange, Town of Delevan, Town of Waterford, Village of Waterford, City of Stoughton, Town of LaFayette, Teaspoon Excavating, Rob Day, Rosses Grading, Gillette Excavating, S & R Compost, U.P.I., and Eagle Springs Golf Course. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that even though wind damage is the ultimate responsibility of the homeowner, the Town Board met last week and decided to offer assistance. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that John's Disposal spent ten (10) minutes at each residence removing tree brush last Saturday. The listed group of volunteers began cleaning up the larger brush today and will continue larger brush removal tomorrow. Construction materials will not be picked up. Homeowners will need to obtain their own dumpsters for these types of materials. Any metal, aluminum, or plastic debris may be placed at the curbside for the regular recycling pick-up on Friday. Further clean-up efforts will be determined at a later date.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that the Town Hall has a list of contractors that have provided their business information, including license and insurance numbers. Please do your due diligence

when selecting a contractor. The Town Clerk has created a list of places for you to contact to verify a contractor's integrity. This list is available in the Town Hall and on the Town's website.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that an "Eagle Disaster Relief Fund" will be established at Chase Bank in Eagle for both Town and Village residents affected by the tornado. A volunteer citizens committee will need to be established to review requests and to distribute the funds. If you, or anyone you know would like to volunteer for this committee, please let the Town Hall staff know.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that there may be some assistance for those people who do not have homeowners insurance however no specific information is available at this time. Senator Kedzie and Representative Nass do have contacts with the Commissioners of Insurance.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that Culvers in Mukwonago will be holding an "Eagle Day" where twenty-five percent of that day proceeds will be donated to the Eagle Disaster Relief Fund.

Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that Bill Stolte from Waukesha County Emergency Management will report on the status of state and federal aid.

Mr. Don Ledrowski, W370 S9563 HWY 67 explained that even with twenty-two (22) volunteers, it will be impossible for him to remove all of his brush by the end of the week. Chairman Kwiatkowski responded that Mr. Ledrowski continue to bring his brush to the curb.

Mrs. Terri Sorenson, W370 S9599 HWY 67 expressed concern over the upcoming Fourth of July weekend and people blowing off fireworks. Mrs. Sorenson explained that the possibility for fire is greater due to all of the brush. Mrs. Sorenson questioned if anyone would be able to help clean-up the land near her. The approximately forty-five (45) acres near Old World Wisconsin is owned by non-residents. Lastly, Mrs. Sorenson explained that she heard a rumor of a possible opportunity for tree replacement. In response, Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that if someone donates trees, that information will be available on the Town's website. Village Police Chief Ehlers suggested dialing 2-1-1 for information on donations or to request volunteers.

Waukesha County Emergency Management Director Bill Stolte explained that there are a number of thresholds to meet in order to qualify for federal disaster relief. Unfortunately, Eagle does not qualify. Mr. Stolte went on to explain the calculation formula. The problem occurs with insurance coverage because most insurance companies cover wind damage to structures. This coverage is then removed from the calculation. Bottom line is that FEMA requires fifty structures to be uninsured. In response to Mrs. Sorenson, Mr. Stolte explained that the Town and Village gave their damage estimates to the County. Tree damage alone is physical damage and is not covered by insurance nor is it allowed to be used in the FEMA calculation.

Representative Stephen Nass clarified that a one-time lump sum of \$7,500 was given to the Red Cross and Salvation Army, who used the monies to pay for the tarps. Mr. Stolte stated that the actual cost for the tarps was \$8,300.

Mr. Stolte explained there is a Wisconsin Disaster Relief Fund available only to support municipal expenses such as debris removal, protective measures, and road damage. This fund is not for the general public. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Town is unsure of what the costs to the municipality will be. The Town is currently paying for the fuel for the volunteering municipalities, man hours for the initial clean-up, and for John's Disposal at the rate of \$75.00 per hour. Additional expenses are yet to be determined.

In response to Heather Shannon, TMJ 4 News, Mr. Stolte reiterated that FEMA looks at uninsured losses. To qualify, Eagle would have to have had fifty (50) uninsured homes to qualify for aid.

Ms. Patricia Wood, S93 W34650 Jordan Court stated that she does not recall the Town's Building Inspector coming by to assess damages. Structural damage is apparent from the outside however there was significant damage to the inside as well. Our loss is between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Mr. Stolte explained that, while he wasn't there, some homes were evaluated while driving by; others were physically gone through. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that Building Inspector Montoya was in the Westwind Subdivision on Friday morning, going door-to-door. He and a number of his co-workers finished their assessment on Monday.

In response to Ms. Wood, Mr. Stolte explained that the residents of Eagle were responsible by having insurance coverage. The federal government's concern is for people to have a safe, reasonable, sanitary place to live. The federal government does not replace trees. Mr. Stolte explained that floods often get federal aid because homeowner's need to have a special policy for flood insurance. Chairman Kwiatkowski added that the rules are not set locally or at the County, the rules are set by the federal government and we have to follow those rules.

Mrs. Sorenson explained that since the Building Inspector was out, three (3) additional rooms in her house have been gutted. Chairman Kwiatkowski responded that an additional two (2) or three (3) million dollars in damage assessment will not change the fact that we need fifty (50) uninsured homes to qualify for FEMA aid.

Discussion ensued regarding tree loss and declining property values. In response to Mr. Doug Kornmeyer, W370 S9589 HWY 67, Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that he will speak with the Town Assessor tomorrow to see how the tree loss affects the land values.

Senator Neil Kedzie explained that the state is mostly concerned with municipal relief. The state did give \$7,500 from the WEDA Funding but nothing else has been released by the governor to date. This \$7,500 was not per household, it was a one-time relief aid. Senator Kedzie referred to the tornado that hit the Town of Wheatland in January of 2008. He explained that a number of the affected residents were having difficulty with their insurance companies. That is where he and Representative Nass can help residents get assistance from the Commission of Insurance. Their toll-free number is 1-800-236-8517 or contact them at OCI.wi.gov.

Sheriff Dan Trawicki reported that the local disaster relief fund is for residents. The fund will be run by an independent Board. Though not very large, it will assist residents with some financial relief.

Mrs. Sorenson commended the community for their wonderful responses and questioned if there was any additional police patrol coverage. In response to Mrs. Sorenson, Sheriff Trawicki explained that the Village of Eagle has posted their squads in the affected Village areas in the afternoon and at night. Sheriff Trawicki suggested calling dispatch to request extra Town patrol, which can be done on a regular basis. Discussion followed.

Discussion ensued regarding the Emergency Response Team. Fire Chief Heim explained that seventeen departments assisted with thirty-three (33) apparatus' and one-hundred eight (108) personnel. Affected areas were identified and secured that night. The fire department will continue through the long term recovery phase. Fire Chief Heim added that cleaning supplies are still available at the Fire Department.

Village of Eagle Police Chief Russ Ehlers reported the statistics for the storm. At exactly 9:17 P.M. and 55 seconds, dispatch received a call reporting rotation. Sixteen seconds later, houses started dropping. Just prior to midnight, four-hundred (400) calls were received for service. The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department provided great coverage. The Village Hall was deemed a "Safe Haven". Buses were brought in by Dousman Transportation, Chaplains arrived, and the local doctor offered her services for first aid. Within forty-five (45) minutes, forty (40) police and sheriff units arrived. Barricades and curfews were set, to provide residents safety. No looting was reported. The curfew was lifted at 5:00 A.M. on Wednesday. Chief Ehlers apologized if the curfew caused any inconveniences.

Jamie and Florence from Project Recovery explained that they are with Lutheran Social Services and are available to both Town and Village residents. They will be going door-to-door to offer their counseling services as well as hold regular office hours, in a location to be determined. Chairman Kwiatkowski added that free childcare is currently being offered by the Eagle Elementary School.

Mrs. Barb Rupp, W345 S9294 Sprague Road and S71 W34985 HWY 59 explained that her son-in-law contacted emergency, who in turn contacted dispatch because she was worried about the welfare and safety of her elderly mother. Chief Heim added that a fire truck and officer were sent immediately to the mother's residence.

Sheriff Trawicki reported that luckily there was only one (1) minor injury. The response from the Fire and Sheriff's Department was a coordinated, hardworking effort. Mistakes were made, we learn from them, and move on. The needs of Eagle are on the forefront of their minds.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that their first meeting was held at 12:45 A.M. and wellness checks were done around 2:00 A.M. Supervisor West brought in generators to provide temporary electrical power. Mrs. Sorenson explained that residents are grateful for what has been done. The frustration now is putting their lives back together. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that reality has not set in yet for most of the affected people. The Town has contact numbers for services when and if the residents need help. Project Recovery will provide assistance through September.

Discussion ensued regarding the local ordinance which prohibits the use of fireworks, the lifted burn ban, and the Village of Eagle emergency siren. Chief Heim explained that the siren is engineered to notify people within one mile who are outdoors. Sirens are not designed for inside coverage. The best way to protect oneself is to obtain a weather radio. The current siren has been repaired, with no plans for replacement.

Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Department of Natural Resources has given the Village a permit to burn. Since the Town has partnered with the Village, the Town will be bringing the brush debris into the same area. In regards to stumps and construction debris, the Town does not know yet how to handle it. That will be the next step.

Mr. Al Gagliano, Kettle Moraine Ranch, CTH S recounted his personal experience of the tornado touch-down. Mr. Gagliano stated that he lost thirty-five (35) acres of fencing, twenty-five (25) acres of trees, a 80 x 120 commercial barn, six wagons, two (2) trolleys, eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) picnic tables, two (2) horses, one (1) donkey, one-thousand (1,000) bales of hay, his garage and kitchen were totaled, and eighteen (18) of his other horses were trapped under debris. Luckily, those eighteen (18), although dehydrated, survived. Mr. Gagliano explained that the Town has been great trying to get him help; volunteers were sent but some left because he has a business.

The Board recessed the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Approval of an Additional Lake Patrol Officer – Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Lake Patrol has been having difficulty staffing hours. Supervisor Malek explained that Sergeant Nork gave the Lake Management District a break-down of the officer's availability. Sergeant Nork and Deputy Braegger have both recommended Armando Brazzoni, Jr., whom was subsequently interviewed for the position. Mr. Brazzoni has lake patrol experience, including solo experience. The Lake Management District highly recommends Mr. Brazzoni for this position. In response to Supervisor Davis, this additional person will increase the pool of officers in which to draw from.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to employ Armando Brazzoni, Jr. for part-time seasonal employment for the Lake Patrol. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

Chairman Kwiatkowski reported that he and Supervisor Malek will be meeting with Sergeant Nork to address the Board's questions. Answers will be brought back to the full Board.

Operator's License requests from Amy Muth, Dionna Krall, and Kelly Hansen – A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Malek to approve the Operator's License requests of Amy Muth, Dionna Krall, and Kelly Hansen. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Kwiatkowski, seconded by Supervisor Malek to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Lynn M. Pepper, Town Clerk
Town of Eagle