

Connecticut Emergency Management Association

Minutes of the Meeting - Wednesday, March 24, 2004

The meeting of the Connecticut Emergency Managers Association (CEMA) was called to order at 7:05 pm by Bruce Lockwood.

Introductions were made around the room.

Mr. Lockwood welcomed and introduced Director Kerry Flaherty from the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management (CT-OEM). Director Flaherty talked about what a great idea it was to establish a Connecticut Emergency Management Association and how the organization should be driven from the communities in CT. He encouraged use of the OEM website and space in the CT OEM newsletter which is distributed throughout the State of CT. Director Flaherty suggested CEMA move the meetings around the five districts in the state to encourage more participants in the CEMA organization.

Mr. Lockwood then welcomed and introduced Acting Director Burturla, Division of Homeland Security (DHS). Acting Director Burturla reiterated the strong relationship between Homeland Security and the Office Emergency Management. He stated that the DHS wanted to collaborate with all communities. He also said he looked forward to the partnership with CEMA.

Both Director Flaherty and Acting Director Burturla made comments about the restructuring of OEM and the DHS and the effects on both organizations. Both gentlemen are working together and felt the restructuring will improve and strengthen both organizations

Mr. Lockwood asked for discussion regarding the name of the organization. A motion was made to amend the organization's name to Connecticut Emergency Management Association (CEMA). A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended name.

Mr. Lockwood asked for motion to accept the Minutes of the February Meeting. George Pytlik (Westbrook) made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Ken Loock (East Hartford) seconded the motion.

Old Business

Mr. Lockwood asked for a report from the Mission and Vision Sub-Committee. Ms. Pearl Rathbun spoke about the efforts of the committee. Mr. Lockwood thanked the subcommittee for their efforts and asked for comments on the Mission and Vision Statements. After discussion from the floor a motion was made to accept The Mission and Vision Statements as amended. The motion was seconded. (copy of amended Mission and Vision Statements attached.)

Mr. Lockwood asked for discussion on the Bylaws. Copies of example bylaws from other emergency management organizations are posted on the OEM Website under CEMA.
<http://www.ct.gov/oem/site/default.asp>

By-Law issues that were discussed are as follows:

- Structure of membership,
- Dues
- Interim Bylaws
- Need to keep it simple
- Need for Area Sub-committees
- Need for strategic planning
- Leadership
- Marketing / Logo
- Questionnaire
- Including an educational component to the monthly meeting

After much debate a Subcommittee was formed.

- Paul Benyeda (Manchester) – Chair man
- Don Janelle (New Britain)
- Joe Sastre (Groton)
- Pearl Rathbun (East Lyme)
- Jim Hardy

Mr. Lockwood asked that if anyone else wanted to be on the By-Laws Subcommittee to contact Mr. Benyeda or himself.

New Business

Mr. Lockwood stated that Liz McDonald (Red Cross) wanted to clear up any confusion regarding the Red Cross and shelters. She wanted everyone to know that the Red Cross is still in the business of running shelters.

Mr. Fippinger (Wethersfield) made a motion to establish a Marketing Subcommittee. Members are:

- Mr. Fippinger (Wethersfield) Chairman
- Mr. Bruce Lockwood (Canton)
- Lee Hendrix (New Milford)
- Steve Tichy (Bethlehem)

Mr. Lockwood asked that if anyone else wanted to be on the Marketing Subcommittee to contact Mr. Fippinger or himself.

Ms. Katherine McCormack told the group about how the State of CT was one of the first states to receive the upgraded Amber Alert System. The upgraded alert system was to be the topic of discussion on the Brad Davis Radio Show (1360AM)

Mr. Lockwood told the group that he and Mr. Benyeda were still traveling to the OEM Area Meetings to promote CEMA.

Mr. Lockwood reminded everyone that SERC was having a conference on April 1st, 2004. Mr. Lockwood stated that SERC is allowing CEMA time around 12:00pm to promote CEMA.

The discussion continued onto the need to get the people who missed the meeting to become involved and attend the next meeting. Also discussed was the need to have fair representation for all communities. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm

The next CEMA meeting will be 7:00pm, April 28th at CHA in Wallingford, CT.