



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL  
217.342.4990

October 23, 2024  
**Public Safety Committee**

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Chair; Dave Campbell, Vice-Chair; Jeremy Deters; Sandi Rich

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: Josh Douthit

Others Present: Chief Buhnerkempe, Pam Jacobs, Kim Rhodes, Amber Wille, Terry Trueblood

**Minutes**

- J. Deters motioned to approve the July 17, 2024 committee minutes. S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns**

- Chief Buhnerkempe reported inmate population numbers remaining about the same for last two months although showing a slow increase through the year.
- Chief Buhnerkempe reported call volume and number of arrests remaining the same with no changes.

**EMA/Pam Jacobs**

- P. Jacobs reported working on planning for Lake Pauline emergency operations with reviewing and suggesting recommended changes.
- P. Jacobs stated emergency operations plan updates are due March 15, 2025, however she has been informed changes may be implemented possibly postponing deadline. P. Jacobs to send out sections for review to applicable department heads.
- P. Jacobs reported sharing an election day emergency response plan for polling places with County Clerk, Sheriff, and HMEP.
- P. Jacobs reported review of winter plan and shared need for more Red Cross volunteers in county in shelter locations. S. Rich inquired if high school students could get volunteer hours as Red Cross volunteer. P. Jacobs confirmed depending on school requirements, however a high school volunteer would need supervision, which may be limited at some locations. Discussion on weather shelter locations, notifications, supplies, and procedures. D. Campbell inquired on agreements in place with shelter locations. P. Jacobs stated no shelter is under contract, however they are working on enlisting Red Cross Shelter Agreements for county shelters.
- P. Jacobs reported the state is performing generator maintenance for winter preparedness. P. Jacobs stated generators had been used for summer at Effingham County Fair, Relay for Life, and Make-A-Wish concert. J. Deters inquired on generator usage and areas in which 100-Kilowatt generator has been used stating that it must be used at 60% of capacity or better to ensure proper function and life expectancy of generator. J. Deters inquired if any exercises have been performed in which generator has been connected to Airport as this was original purpose for generator. P. Jacobs stated she would have to inquire with J. Tate at Airport. J. Deters to inquire with Airport Commission on generator exercises.
- P. Jacobs reported training for the period including EOC training, flagger training, national qualification training, CPR, air medics training, IFSI class. P. Jacobs reported exercise planning including LAPC, EOC Liaison Exercise on November 13, Region 9 exercise with EMA's in region, and Douglas County scout training.

**Coroner/Kim Rhodes**

- K. Rhodes reported on released autopsy on Lake Sara death in which determinization was made water was too cold and victim's body shut down. K. Rhodes commended Dive Rescue team stating they did a super job and all went well. K. Rhodes highlighted the use of a tow fish to find body and ease in ability to recover victims. D. Campbell stated it may be worth the money to purchase one for Dive Rescue. T. Trueblood stated Tow Fish goes deeper with powerful push of sonar to assist in finding bodies in water. K. Rhodes commended all emergency personnel in working well together in efforts of attempt to save victim.
- K. Rhodes reported five (5) autopsies, however has had four (4) of those in the last week.

### **911/Tina Daniels**

- T. Daniels unavailable due to conference. D. Campbell reported approval for tower to be inspected for structural integrity. J. Deters stated fire communications are completed and functioning well.

### **Animal Control/Michelle Shoot**

- M. Shoot unavailable due to illness. D. Campbell reported adoptions are up and shelter has had some relief in capacity.

### **Emergency Preparedness/Health Department**

- A. Wille reported drive thru flu clinics began mid-September at Hoop Building and will continue through October 31. A. Wille reported vaccinations included in drive thru are flu, high dose flu and covid vaccinations. A. Wille stated anyone wanting a flu shot or covid vaccination after October 31, can call ahead to schedule.
- A. Wille reported following Marburg outbreak in Ruanda, stating as of October 15, there have been 62 cases and 15 deaths with no cases reported in U.S. A. Wille stated travelers returning from the area are being screened and if any of those travelers are from Effingham County, the Health Department is required to monitor the traveler.
- A. Wille reported continued monitoring of H5N1 “bird flu” stating as of April there were 27 U.S. confirmed infections. 9 associated with exposure to poultry, 6 associated with infected dairy cows and 1 with no confirmed source.
- A. Wille shared Drug Take-Back day is Saturday, October 26. D. Campbell inquired on specific sites for program. A. Wille stated no specific sites, however many options in Effingham County are posted.
- A. Wille reported sharps collection is under way at Health Department and has been successful with many people taking advantage of program. A. Wille reported grant for next fiscal year has been submitted and waiting for grant to be renewed.

### **Dive Rescue Team/Terry Trueblood**

- T. Trueblood stated he has been working on ensuring updates for required vaccinations and tetanus shots for all dive team members. T. Trueblood reported currently staffed with ten (10) divers and one (1) shore responder all of whom are volunteer. T. Trueblood stated he would like to add six (6) shore responders. T. Trueblood reported having two (2) new divers that need a little more training; however, they are doing well and were part of the team assisting in the recent Lake Sara drowning. S. Rich inquired on age requirement for shore responders. T. Trueblood confirmed age requirement of 18 years of age along with other physical requirements to qualify. J. Deters inquired on contact in case someone in general public was interested in volunteering. T. Trueblood confirmed contacts for application would be himself or Jeremy Kyle.
- T. Trueblood reported currently using sonar, however capabilities are not as efficient as tow fish and if tow fish is necessary, it must be obtained from DNR. T. Trueblood stated J. Kyle is currently working on trying to build a tow fish, which would eliminate need to purchase tow fish.
- T. Trueblood reported completing disaster training with J. Kyle in Galena, IL in which training group traveled to Hurricane Helene victims in Tennessee with supplies and fed first responders for multiple days. T. Trueblood stated the need for additional supplies for first responders was significant so training team assisted in purchase of additional supplies. T. Trueblood stated trip was an opportunity for disaster response team to experience disaster on a full scale along with observing real time challenges where there is quite a bit of room for improvement. T. Trueblood reported observing many challenges with FEMA support for both victims and first responders.

### **K-9 Search and Rescue/Kevin Bullard**

- No report.

### **General**

### **Closed Session**

### **Adjournment**

- J. Deters motioned/S. Rich seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator