



***Town of Mansfield
Emergency Management Advisory Committee***

DRAFT
Minutes of Special Meeting
April 8, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL -- Chairman Elizabeth Paterson called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. in Council Chambers at the Audrey P. Beck Building. *Members present:* Will Bigl, Matthew Hart, Lon Hultgren, Michael Kurland, Robert Miller and Elizabeth Paterson. *Member(s) absent:* Fred Baruzzi, David Dagon, and James Kodzis. *Staff present:* John Jackman. Jennifer Thompson is serving as secretary at this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- Chairman Paterson called for a motion to revise or approve said minutes. Motion made by R. Miller to accept the 4-8-2009 minutes as presented, M. Hart seconded, all being in favor, motion passed.

3. NEW BUSINESS --

- University of Connecticut Health Services: UConn Health Services will be instituting a transportation service for return from Windham Hospital to Health Services. M. Kurland indicated that this will no longer require the use of an ambulance for transport effective April 21, 2010.
- 2010 Spring Weekend Planning
 - a. Management Plan: M. Kurland noted that S-Lot was talked about for a gathering on Wednesday evening last year, but that did not occur. There is speculation about W-Lot (off Rte 195 behind old police station) for Wednesday this year, but it will not be allowed and people will be turned away from congregating there. J. Jackman confirmed that Spring Weekend will consist of activities at Carriage House on Thursday, Celeron on Friday and X-Lot at UConn on Saturday as has been in the past. While uncertain if an event will occur on Wednesday event, there are a number of house parties also held throughout the weekend that attention may need to be given to. Mansfield, UConn and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety (State Police) will be managing the public safety response to UConn Spring weekend from a Unified Command Post this year. The Unified Command Post will be in compliance with the National Incident Management Plan (NIMS) and will be located at the UConn Public Safety building on Campus. There will still be a State Police staging area at Goodwin School. The virtual command will be set up with Division Command Post in the field. In effort to control and mitigate outside influences, M. Hart indicated there will be additional traffic posts (up to 10 in Mansfield) as well as road closures. Commitment has been expressed by the major apartment owners / management companies regarding parking enforcement, maintaining guest policy and hiring police. State Police will ticket and tow those parked on roadways in the area. UConn Student Government will be providing bagels and water at Carriage House entrance on Thursday, Celeron path on Friday and entrance of parking lot on Saturday. R. Miller expressed concern with the handling of food. Health District office will have to be informed of what USG is doing to determine if this poses a health issue. Concert is

scheduled at UConn for April 10, 2010 and not during Spring Weekend. University sanctioned activities will be publicized and scheduled to run later into the day. It is assumed that the Student Union will be open too.

- b. Goals & Objectives: Same general goals and objectives as in the past – attempts to scale back the weekend, efforts to reduce outsiders, and hope that UConn reduces 4,000-6,000 guests permitted at dorms.
- c. Initiatives for 2010: W. Bigl questioned if residents of Hunting Lodge Road will be given permits or special parking for the weekend. Residents need an alternative where can park safely and not get turned away from driving to their homes. The Storrs Meeting House was suggested for use but several members expressed concern with UConn's ban on parking being a conflict. If one lives at Holinko Estates there is no access problem as are able to come onto Hunting Lodge Road from the other direction off Rte 44. Staff will provide notice to those owner occupied residences between Holinko Estates and North Eagleville Road.

4. REPORTS --

- Updates on Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Initiatives
 - a. Regional Emergency Planning: Region IV is made up of 42 communities and a couple of tribal nations to work cooperatively together. A draft plan is in place to provide regional emergency management.
 - b. Regional Drill: Drills are organized to cover topics such as strong category hurricane, damage and roadways management to resolve affects of an event, how to handle environmental issues and getting necessary resources and equipment in times of high incident volume like the New Hampshire ice storm.
 - c. March 2010 Heavy Rains: State is working with FEMA to determine whether a Federal declaration is warranted. If Connecticut receives a Federal declaration it will assist communities in recovering their costs for repairing damaged roadways, and may provide assistance to property owners for property damage and loss due to flooding. Officials are coming to review areas of more heavily impacted communities, those lying southeast of Norwich. Tolland County may not reach the threshold as New London County most likely will. L. Hultgren suggested that the costs for running equipment should be reevaluated by the State from what shown on website. Thornbush Road and Bassetts Bridge Road had some flooding damage but overall Mansfield faired well.
 - d. Severe Repetitive Loss Grant: Under this pilot program, the Baker Family on Thornbush Road qualified for a \$150,000.00 grant to elevate the house about the 500-year flood plain. This will not solve motor vehicle access issues on site. The choice given to an owner who applies for this program is to either elevate the structure or demolish the house and turn the property over to municipality. Mr. Baker likes living there and has so chosen to elevate his home. Town consideration to purchase of land in the Thornbush area under open space as could be potential good kayak launch there.
 - e. Grants: A grant was provided under the regional system to Public Works for 2-way radios and repeater for infrastructure improvements. Coventry is lead on this application for the two towns.

- Updates on Eastern Highlands Health District Initiatives: Demand for H1N1 vaccine has decreased so closing the vaccination program clinics. EHHD partnered with UConn Health and VNA for clinics running from October 15, 2009 through February 15, 2010. Over 9,300 vaccinations were administered, a rank of 2nd among all health districts in the state. This is over 10% of our population, almost 30% of the school-age population. The largest clinic was that held in Tolland – almost 900 people vaccinated. The cooperative efforts of the agencies were seamless. A dinner was held on March 18, 2010 to thank the volunteers who assisted at the various clinics. LedgeLight Health District and EHHD are model examples for others as successful operations. Online pre-screening and registration were very effective means to deal with demand. Regulating priority groups presented challenge as those with pre-existing medical, i.e. someone just getting over cancer, was behind elderly and children. Vaccine information was available in other languages but an English approach was used without issue. EHHD and University worked together as an ideal model of cooperation and have developed a positive framework for response. E. Paterson asked for presentation for TownGown to be made regarding this proactive initiative.

5. ADJOURNMENT -- At the request of the Town Manager's office, the brochure "Freedom of Information Guidelines for Boards, Commissions and Committees" was provided to all present. The Town Clerk's office has posted a flyer entitled "Volunteer Opportunities" to encourage citizens to participate in various committees. Open position for this Committee is shown in that flyer. There being no further business to be presented to the members, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Thompson