

Emergency Meeting - 10/27/12 at 8:00am held at the Town Hall to prepare for Hurricane Sandy

Selectboard members present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Reed Korrow, Clark Amadon, Michelle Beard

Emergency personnel included: Sean O'Brien, Dave Van Deusen

Guests included: Ray Munn, Eric Howes, Kim & Johnny Summers, Gary Butler, Bob Holden, Meriden Nelson, Jeb Bouchard

This meeting was called to talk about potential readiness and to coordinate services and communication.

John, Michelle and Sean participated in a Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) conference call Friday at 1pm. There were 119 town representatives who were on the call. Andy Nash from the National Weather Service gave an update on the track of the storm. It was pointed out that this is a very different storm than Irene, which was a fast moving tropical storm. Sandy is a slow moving nor'easter and as such will show effects over a span of a couple of days. It is looking like high winds are going to be more of a problem than widespread flooding, although the type and severity of effects will depend on the exact track the storm takes. GMP has 200 extra persons ready to help in Vermont should there be a large number of power outages. VEM would like towns to document any damage with pictures and detailed descriptions. Spot reports should be sent as soon as possible. They would like towns to speak with one voice.

As Sean is on the ground, he will be the person to communicate to VEM.

Readiness:

Road crews have spent time this week cleaning out culverts and are prepared. Martin will do a final check on Monday.

The town has some supplies left over from Irene stored throughout the town. The fire department has the blankets. Clark has 4 cases of water, 6 cases of MREs and diapers; Ray has 2 cases of food and a cot.

The fire department is coming in on Sunday to prepare. They will be on alert until the storm has passed. Sean has been in contact with Harwood Union High School, which will be the official evacuation site. If evacuation is necessary, the fire department will sound the siren and begin notifying residents in affected areas. Johnny Summers asked if Harwood was the best spot, as one of the first spots to flood is the bridge on the way to Harwood. Sean would like residents to be at Harwood, as opposed to being potentially cut off in a village site. He has considered a tent on higher ground with heaters. The town will consider that option for future events. The Harwood site will be used for this impending storm event and any call to evacuate would be made sooner rather than later. Sean will be on all radio channels, the rest of the fire department will have a designated channel. Sean will give the selectboard an extra radio so contact can be maintained at all times.

10/27/12 Emergency Meeting minutes re: storm readiness

Ray Munn has space in his house if there is someone who needs evacuation. The town will keep the option in mind.

Dave will station himself in the village area if the intensity of the storm increases. He would like the road crew to leave road barriers available so that he can access them if the road crew is not on site.

Duane has been communicating with the superintendent. If the storm intensifies and the Town Hall is needed for an emergency situation, Halloween activities will be postponed.

Local farmers are in the process of moving hay bales away from the river areas.

Communication:

The town will post the VEM recommendations to residents on Front Porch Forum, as well as other information specific to Moretown.

Residents should be prepared for loss of power. Dave would like the town to remind residents that the Mobil station does not have available gas and to make sure to fill up early.

Kim Summers would like the town to think about residents who are not online and might not see FPF communication. She says that village residents are concerned about the potential for another flood. The board will spread the word around town.

Other Issues:

Dave was wondering if there was a priority road that has been identified to work on first and keep open. Tom said that that had been taken care of.

Clarence Wood has expressed interest in the position of 2nd Constable. John moved that Clarence Wood be appointed 2nd. Constable. Tom seconded. Unanimous vote of yes.

Gary Butler is being proactive and moving his belongings upstairs in advance of the storm. He and others are concerned about potential flooding because of the close proximity to winter. Others might also be preparing in this manner and extra help would be beneficial. Jeb will mobilize volunteers willing to help.

The board will meet before Monday's town forum to assess and mobilize plans.

Tom motioned to adjourn, Clark seconded.