

Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Marvin Kohout.

Present: Marvin Kohout, Lyle Weber, Kara Burda, Sharon Jelinek, Deb Spanyers, Tim McDermott, Rick Korbelik, John McKee, Russ Kalkwarf and Bruce Filipi

Absent: Colby Marks, Russ Karpisek, Becky Vales and Dan Johnson

- In recognition of a quorum, Kohout informed those present the location of the Open Meetings Law posted in the conference room and the expectation of committee acknowledgment and abidance.
- Filipi moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Spanyers. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.
- Members present during the present Safety Committee meeting, having received, heard & reviewed minutes of the August 21, 2019 Safety Committee meeting, Weber motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Russ. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATES:

McDermott reported on the status of the Wellness Committee's work in compiling changes to the 2020 Wellness Program along with its program changes. The update included the transition toward the use of an online portal to be utilized by participants who have indicated Option #2 in the use of wearable devices to track activity steps. The Safety Committee was informed that additional wearable devices are available for those who remain interested. A reminder that both the portal and a select number of devices will be funded by the Wellness Committee. Workwell's MyVia is to become the sole portal during 2020.

Advanced dates were also provided in anticipation of the Annual Health Fair to be February 11th & 12th at both the Courthouse and the LEC from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., as was done the previous year.

FALL TRAINING:

Due to the earlier chosen topic of Cyber Security, and the unavailability of NIRMA to guide this topic in November, the option to await the time period of Spring, perhaps March, when planning ahead for this training.

BUILDING ADDITION:

McDermott provided a brief update on the remaining door hardware to be installed on the secure hallway exiting the elevator on third floor. Indications from the General Contractor have led us to believe installation would happen in the neighborhood of Monday, December 16th.

SELF DEFENSE CLASS:

A request was brought forth from the Committee to reach back out to the Law Enforcement Center in continuation of a Self-Defense Class as earlier provided by the Wellness Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

NIRMA I – PROPERTY and LIABILITY CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

Two (2) claims were discussed at this meeting:

#1: On September 24, 2019 a resident of Saline County alleged that on or about July 31, 2019 bridge planking removed from a county bridge floated into his brome grass due to high water issues. He subsequently hit this plank with his 'baler' causing damage to it. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** In learning the bridge plank was pulled from the bridge by employees of the county and set aside during work on the bridge, and high

water – flooding issues transpired at around this time frame, the recommendation of the committee would be continuing to ensure that all such debris be fastened or otherwise removed/discarded in a timely manner.

#2: On September 3, 2019 a City of Wilber waterline broke outside the front door of the Saline County Aging Services building subsequently flooding the basement below Aging Services. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** Given the loss reported was limited to payments for restoration services in drying out the basement itself, the Committee found no available remedy that would prepare for equally similar, future events.

NIRMA II - WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

The committee reviewed two (2) claims from an earlier quarter in 2019: *(These claims from the previous quarter were tabled due to an absence of available law enforcement personnel to help address the circumstances for each incident during the previous meeting.)*

#1: On April 25, 2019, a Sheriff's Deputy was injured while in the process of subduing a non-cooperative suspect while making an arrest. The Committee, having heard the background and situational circumstances involved in a deputy having his hand/fingers caught within the chain area of detainee-restraints as the altercation accelerated, understood the speed at which this incident quickly developed. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Committee found no apparent corrective action due to the nature of the event.

#2: On June 28, 2019, a Sheriff's Deputy was in direct contact with blood splatter from a county jail inmate while on trial in the District Courtroom. The deputy was able to help load and escort the EMS unit to the hospital emergency room where both the inmate and the deputy were seen. The deputy had a blood draw accomplished by hospital staff to test for any blood borne disease from that contamination. Follow up appoints would be needed. The Committee heard and understood the nature of this incident and the quick response by deputies to prevent further injury. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** Given the circumstances involved in this incident, the committee would not offer any corrective action that may have prevented this claim without having caused more injury to another.

FIRE EVACUATION/SEVERE WEATHER PLANS:

The Committee briefly discussed the DRAFT policy of a Fire Drill/Evacuation Plan & Tornado/Severe Weather Plan discussed during the previous meeting. Both these topics will be reviewed during the anticipated 2020 Personnel Policy Review Committee, perhaps in January or February. In the meantime, McDermott will request a response from Department Heads in all remote building locations to provide their current, building evacuation and severe weather plans/guidelines.

SPRING 2020 TRAINING:

Committee members continued to discussed the Spring Training event were two (2) topics, Fire Extinguisher Training and Computer Security/Cyber Safety remain a focus. McDermott will be attending an expanded training event in January in which information will hopefully be gathered in utilizing a similar presentation, or reach out to NIRMA for its training offering.

IN CONCLUSION:

- The next meeting of the Saline County Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McDermott – Secretary