

EMERGENCY READINESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2021

The Emergency Readiness Committee met in the County Board Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert Allen.

Members Present:

Robert Allen, Chairman
C. Rick Vernier, Asst. Chairman
Ken Easterley
Susan Gruberman
Jana A. Moll
Robert Trentman

Members Absent:

Willie Dancy, Excused

Others Present:

Mark Kern, Chairman, St. Clair County Board
Lonnie Mosley, County Board
Herb Simmons, EMA Director
Chief Corey Ellis

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Chief Don Feher.

There were no Public Comments or Questions asked at this Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Easterley and seconded by Ms. Moll to approve the Minutes from the November 23, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Vernier and seconded by Ms. Gruberman to approve the annual contract funding for SCSESA in the amount of \$36,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Simmons gave the EMA report, noting that the report for May/June 2021 contained items compiled over the last 16 months due to canceled meetings. He advised that the daily Covid briefings will conclude, and a weekly update will commence on Wednesdays.

Mr. Allen commended Director Simmons, Chairman Kern, and the entire EMA office for providing First Responders with adequate PPE during the Pandemic and for a job well done keeping everyone informed.

A motion to approve the EMA report was made by Ms. Moll and seconded by Mr. Trentman. Motion passed unanimously. ATTACHED IS A COPY OF THE EMA REPORT.

SCSESA Chief Corey Ellis reported that the team will be receiving grant funds to be used for training props, in the amount of \$28,000.00, from ITTF and IEMA. He advised that in-person

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training has resumed, and that the rehab trailer has been used at area fire calls. He added that the K-9 team has been very busy and have been requested to assist with a cold case in the Chicago, Illinois area.

A brief discussion followed concerning the Phillips 66 Hazmat incident in Wood River and how the team and area fire departments assisted.

Upon no further business, motion was made by Ms. Moll and seconded by Mr. Vernier to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Allen, Chairman
Emergency Readiness Committee

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Herbert Simmons
Director

St. Clair County **Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**

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Emergency Readiness and Public Safety Report May and June 2021

1. We completed 455 days of daily COVID updates at the EOC
2. In St. Clair County we have tested 370,388 citizens. Resulting in 31,290 positive tests. And 339,098 negative tests. Sadly, we have lost 479 residents to the Covid-19 Virus.
3. May 30th we closed the mass vaccination site at the Fairgrounds.
4. We moved the operation to 330 West Main on June 1st
5. We conducted the outdoor warning test and monthly radio test for the county
6. Deployed multiple assets to the Wood river rail car incident though St. Clair Special Emergency Services.
7. Special Services responded to tractor trailer rollover on Popular street bridge with chemicals leaking.
8. Sadly, we lost our Assistant EMA assistant Director Mr. Don Feher on June 3rd after a lengthy health issue battle. Staff participate in his funeral arrangements at the request of Don's family.
9. Staff participate in the Mid-America Airport planning exercise.
10. Participate in ITTF (Illinois Terrorism Task Force) meeting.
11. Attended the 9-1-1 advisory board meeting.
12. Assistant EMA Director Bryan Whitaker was appointment to the Executive board of APCO (Association of Public Safety Communication officials)
13. We received approval of the St. Clair County EOP (Emergency Operation Plan) for the county. This was a requirement in order for us to receive our accreditation in September.
14. Our mobile command post is out of service due to engine problems. Its at the shop for repair and we have asked STARRS for assistance with the cost.

Summary of the past 16 months.

It's been busy during the Pandemic as you may all know. We've done our best to keep our citizens informed to the testing that was need and, then getting vaccinated. We continued to keep our First responders updated daily on issue with the COVID-19 response. Through out social media outlets we reached 22,090,138 with COVID-19 related information over the last 16 months. Several news media interviews were made by the local news media helping keep the citizens informed.

Early on Chairman Kern requested that a way to provide our citizens with daily and, accurate information be established. Under his leadership we're happy to say we believe that mission was completed. Our daily briefings have now been scaled back to a weekly update on Wednesday at 3:30pm.

We are thankful to everyone that supported our department and, for their patience while we were all experiencing this Pandemic.

Respectfully;
Herbert Simmons
Herbert Simmons
Director