

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN REVIEW**

November 26, 2018

4:00 PM

Harris County Courthouse, Room 223

Commissioners Present: Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy McMichael, County Clerk.

Also in attendance: Monty Davis, EMA/9-1-1 Director; Justin Finney (BOE); Holly Holloway (Shiloh Clerk); Richard McKinney (Antioch VFD Chief); Andy Kober (reporter for HC Journal and member of Pine Mountain VFD).

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Lange called the meeting to order; thanked everyone for being in attendance; said that the purpose of the meeting was to review the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in conjunction with the Hazardous Mitigation Plan (HMP), so that the Board would be familiar with same, and he asked Monty Davis, EMA/9-1-1 Director, to review the documents.

DISCUSSION. Mr. Davis said that the EOP is mandated by the State (GEMA), the format of which was provided by GEMA for the County to complete; that the same plan was provided to each County to complete with details specific to each County; that there is a listing for 15 areas of Emergency Support Functions (ESF) setting out the services of each during a disaster; that it does not detail how to handle a disaster, only the basics because each situation is different; that his job is resource support and coordination in the event outside sources are needed from other areas of the State; that the EOP has been in place more than 20 years; and that personnel from the various ESFs meet periodically to review the plan, any changes, and new requirements, etc., to make sure the EOP is up to date. He said that Public Works handles County road issues, that GDOT handles State road issues, that the Sheriff's Office handles law enforcement issues, that EMS handles emergency medical issues, that the Health Department handles health related issues to include distribution of medication in a declaration of a disaster or medical epidemic, and any quarantine requirements; etc., each working with the other in coordination of services. He said that should shelter for citizens be required, the Community Center and the schools are designated as such, but neither have generators; that the Courthouse could be used if it had a transfer switch for the generator; that a transfer switch prevents damage to an electrical system should the power be restored while the generator is in use; and that if necessary, citizens could be housed in Columbus or LaGrange, assuming those areas were not hit by the same emergency or disaster. Mr. Davis said that should the need arise, he can make a call to GEMA for assistance in obtaining services from other areas; that there are intergovernmental agreements in place throughout the State for providing assistance to others; that GEMA can secure assistance from food vendors and grocers to bring in food; that the securing and transfer of inmates at the Sheriff's Office or Prison during an emergency or disaster is handled by the Sheriff or the Warden; that the County has a mass casualty bus, which was obtained through Georgia Forestry, in which 12 cots are in place; that issues related to water would be handled by Water Works and the Health Department, depending on what has occurred; that should the radio communications go down, radios can communicate radio-to-radio; that while radio communications are good, the problem is with coverage due to the topography of the County; that to help solve the communications issue, Diverse Power and Dean's Commercial Two-Way are in the process of performing a study to determine, at no cost to the County, where additional towers are needed; and that the greatest need facing the County at the moment is the lack of generators.

Regarding the HMP, Mr. Davis said that it is required by the Federal government (FEMA) and must be updated every five years, the next being in 2020; that the HMP includes what could happen, what has happened, but does not have anything to do with the EOP, except that it must be in place in order for the County to obtain reimbursement from FEMA for emergency/disaster expenses.

In conclusion, Mr. Davis said that while he has the final decision making authority during an emergency/disaster, should push come to shove, he has not had to do so because the various departments work in coordination with one another to provide the necessary services and resources to the citizens.

The Board thanked Mr. Davis for being in attendance and making such an informative presentation. Mr. Davis, in turn, advised the Board that should there be any additional questions to not hesitate to contact him.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lange adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.