



MOBILE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

7350 Zeigler Boulevard
Mobile, Alabama 36608
(251) 460-8000

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 8, 2021

PRESENT:

Chief A. Shayne Lovitte, City of Saraland
Executive Director Lawrence Battiste, City of Mobile
Mr. Eddie Kerr, Mobile County
Mr. Ronnie Adair, MCEMA
Mr. Mike Evans, MCEMA
Mr. Glen Brannan, MCEMA
Mrs. Diane Murphy, MCEMA
Mrs. Renetta Thames, MCEMA

Chief Lovitte called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2021 MINUTES: Mr. Kerr made a motion to approve the August 2021 minutes; Director Battiste seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2021 CHECK REGISTERS: Mr. Kerr made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Director Battiste. The check registers were approved.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS: Director Battiste made a motion to approve the financial reports. Mr. Kerr seconded the motion, and the August financial reports were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- COVID-19 Ongoing – There have been no big changes, but things appear to be leveling off. MCHD expects another peak due to the Labor Day holiday. The numbers are trending down on hospitalizations and infections, but there are still some staffing issues in hospitals. Infusion treatments are now being done at the Mobile Civic Center and an MCHD location for those who are sick with COVID-19.
- 348 N. McGregor Avenue – Finally yesterday AT&T says everything has been turned off. Tomorrow we will pull out their equipment and pack it up in anticipation of shipping labels. MAWSS is moving toward taking possession of the building.
- Hurricane Sally and Hurricane Zeta –HMGP Applications – Everything has been turned in to AEMA. We are notified every time one of our jurisdictions is notified of their approval.
- EOP Update – Mr. Evans reported that he is working with the County attorney, Jay Ross, and Tina Sanchez to make sure by the existing contract with Hagerty that everything is done the correct way. Our contact at Hagerty has been notified that approval to proceed was given by the Executive Committee. We are expecting to begin early next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- MCPB Jurisdiction Bonus Request Letter – Mr. Adair has prepared the letter for the Mobile County Personnel Board to advise of the possibility of a raise or bonus in the upcoming fiscal year. This letter is an annual requirement. Director Battiste made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Chief Lovitte and passed.
- Hurricane Ida – Mr. Adair reported that Dauphin Island had \$3Million in damages and the Dauphin Island Water and Sewer System had \$170,000 in damages. There will be no problem meeting the threshold for Mobile County, however, the State does not have \$7.5Million to qualify for assistance. Unless something changes over the new two weeks, Dauphin Island will be responsible for the damages on the island.
- Warning Siren Letter to Officials – Due to the recent tornado which hit Saraland, Chief Lovitte requested this be discussed today. In the immediate aftermath, citizens were on social media asking why the siren didn't sound off. Chief Lovitte met with Mr. Adair and Mr. Evans to discuss moving forward quickly with getting out our message about the siren system not working. The video is ready so we can begin our own media campaign blitz about how to receive alerts. Mr. Evans described the information shared in the letter and the findings behind it. There was a lengthy discussion of the key points and how to remove non-working sirens. It was agreed the first phase is to get all politicians involved through the letter. The officials' letter will be edited to include the point about 80% of smartphones compared to 6% of county coverage. The next step is to recraft the letter for the public and utilize a media campaign. Mr. Kerr said his one concern is should we go ahead and decommission the whole siren system. He would be in favor of the attrition method if there was a way to test monthly to know which sirens were working or not and notify the public when a siren is not working. Based on the feedback from the letters, there will be a discussion next month about a total decommissioning. The media campaign will begin after the elected officials' feedback discussion.
- Community Safe Room Grant Final Reimbursement – Mr. Adair advised we received a check for \$289,971 through Alabama EMA from FEMA on a request for additional funds, if available, to cover increased budget costs on the Safe Room construction. There are two issues currently: we are taking bids on the construction of a storage building for an estimated \$300,000 and the other is the siren system. Chief Lovitte said it's definitely not for buying more sirens. Director Battiste felt if the grant money is not needed for anything additional in the safe room, it could possibly be used for the storage building. It was agreed to hold for discussion until after the siren letters are sent to the Mayors and County Commissioners. This item will be placed on next month's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The next meeting will be held on October 13th at 1:30 p.m. With no further business to be discussed, Director Battiste made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kerr and the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 13th DAY OF October, 2021:







