

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2014
6:15 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton: Pledge of Allegiance

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting.

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Cross, Freeholders Laury, Vanderslice, Ware, Timberman and Acton. Freeholder Bobbitt arrived at 6:28pm.

Presentation:

Leory Pierce of the Hazmat team

Hazardous Materials Response Team Accomplishments / Upgrades – 2014

The Salem County Hazardous Materials Team has made significant progress and upgrades over the past several years utilizing Homeland Security Grant funding to acquire needed equipment and upgrade existing assets. Since we were afforded an operating budget line item in 2014 we were able to greatly improve our preparedness and response capability, and in some cases set the benchmark in our region in some areas (i.e. – wireless air monitoring capabilities, scene size-up / recon capabilities, etc.) Additionally we were able to provide our volunteer response personnel with appropriate clothing for responses. In the fall, we conducted our FIRST 80 hour hazardous materials technician class in partnership with the Fire Academy and New Jersey State Police. Out of the class, we were lucky to bridge five (5) of our existing HM Techs to the 80 hr. level AND recruit nine (9) NEW volunteers as haz mat technicians onto our team. We are looking forward to continued growth and progress. Here is a brief synopsis of important items, basically made possible through our operating budget.

Brief outline of equipment / assets

- Flow Testing of all self contained breathing apparatus (an annual requirement which has NOT been met in some of the previous years)
- Purchase of Wireless Air Monitoring license and software (first in the Delaware River Region to acquire the RAE Systems Guardian software, which allows internet access to the air monitoring reading remotely – i.e. County EOC, etc.)
- Purchase of additional Air Monitoring Instruments with photo ionization capabilities
- Provide for medical surveillance for those members needing physicals outside of their normal employment medicals.
- Purchase of state of the art Quantifit Fit Testing instrument to more efficiently conduct fit testing (annual requirement) for all responders who may don a self contained breath apparatus

- Upgrades to our existing F-350 PU to accommodate for utility body purchased through OSHP
- Upgrade of vehicle lighting package on HM response vehicle assigned to Chief.
- Assist the fire academy in the construction of industry type props on the drill ground at SCFA which can be used for HM team training as well.
- Purchase of an UAV (unmanned aerial device / drone) for the purposes of remote controlled scene size-up and surveillance of a potential haz mat scene. (believed to be first in the Delaware River Region)
- Acquisition of a cache of diking, damming and absorbent materials
- Acquisition of haz mat SMART STRIPS (cards designed to detect presence of toxic/hazardous substances in the air worn by responders who may enter the “hot” zone)
- Acquisition of Plugging Kits for initial responders and first response vehicles, including county OEM coordinator and deputy coordinator.
- Replacement of batteries in small decon trailer
- Vinyl markings for response vehicle
- Vinyl decals for marking of equipment assets
- Various supplies for team (i.e. – label maker, surge protector for response van, office supplies)

Assets / Equipment / Upgrades via Grant Funding

- Utility body install for F350 Pick-up (allows for the transport of needed tools, equipment and supplies on first out response vehicle)
- Acquisition of additional plugging/patching kits for response vehicles
- Acquisition of specially designed decon hoop for decontamination of responders and potential exposed patients / individuals.
- Acquisition of some boom material to contain effluents which may have found their way into a waterway, lake or pond.
- Acquisition of chemical neutralizers to render acids and bases safe.
- Acquisition of dome clamps to control domes located on top of tank trailers.
- Acquisition of upgraded capping devices for rail cars and cylinders.

Obtained through donations from various partnerships forged

- Additional sets of personal protective gear for HM team members (of significant value over \$100,000 which are able to be shared /issued to fire academy staff as well)
- Received a cargo tank trailer for use in training hazardous materials team members

- Received a large number of new haz mat level A training suits (valued at over \$5,000)
- Received two (2) LED lightbars, sirens and switch units to upgrade our F350 Utility and Rescue Body Truck.

As we approach the New Year, we are confident that our hazardous materials response team is poised to respond effectively, efficiently and professionally to any hazardous materials incident. We still have much to accomplish in order to meet our annual requirements (training, medical surveillance and equipment upgrades and replacements) but we believe we have made huge strides over the past several years and especially in 2014. We captured the attention of throngs of people with our aggressive rail transportation initiative and are expanding that to now include a training initiative on the transportation of BAKKEN crude oil into our region. While we in Salem County do not see crude transit the Penns Grove spur or our West Jersey Short Line, our haz mat team and county fire department personnel certainly could be called to respond into Gloucester County (West Deptford Twp. Sunoco Logistics and NUSTAR Energy; Paulsboro NUSTAR Energy) for a potential crude oil incident.

We are awaiting the completion of an office trailer which has been under remodeling / reconditioning at the Salem County Vocational Technical HS (construction technology class) which will serve as a the office location for the haz mat team and house some basic storage, files, calibration equipment, etc. The trailer had been donated to the team and is being retrofitted at basically no cost to the county.

In closing, on behalf of all of our team members, we thank you for your consideration this year in our funding. As you may know we have “merely existed” through various grant funds and some “limited” financial assistance from the county health department. The grant funds are dwindling before our eyes and thus creates a significant vacuum in our funding, potentially negatively impacting our team and its ability to effectively maintain itself and respond in an emergency. There has been much research and information shared regarding alternatives and funding available with our CFO/Administrator, who has been a staunch supporter of our team. You should know that the Salem County Hazardous Materials Response Team is ready to confront any emergency it is called upon to handle or assist with thanks to your consideration and the assistance from Mrs. Coleman. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to “ask” or discuss. THANK YOU once again.

R. 2014-463

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Freeholder Laury made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, second by Freeholder Vanderslice, carried by hand vote of 7/0 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Crouch
Clerk of the Board