



## **Emergency Services Council Meeting**

### **Minutes May 4, 2023**

#### **I. Roll Call- Members Present:**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Davina Hurt       | Belmont             |
| Jon Froomin       | Foster City         |
| Deborah Penrose   | Half Moon Bay       |
| Cecilia Taylor    | Menlo Park          |
| Ann Millbrae      | Millbrae            |
| Craig Taylor      | Portola Valley      |
| Kaia Eakin        | Redwood City        |
| Michael Salazar   | San Bruno           |
| Robert Newsome    | San Mateo           |
| Paul Goeld        | Woodside            |
| Supervisor Slocum | County of San Mateo |

#### **II. Public Comment**

Half Moon Bay ESC member, Deborah Penrose, announced a May 18th fundraiser for Coastside Victim's Fund. The event will take place at the San Mateo Credit Union located in Half Moon Bay. Proceeds will go to victims affected by January 23rd shooting

#### **III. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items**

- Approved without objection

#### **IV. Presentations, Awards, or Guest Speakers**

- NONE

#### **V. Approve Agenda Format Modifications and Finance Committee Changes**

- Mr. Mattei proposal to create both an administrative committee and a finance committee where admin committee would consist of both a Chair and Vice Chair.
- Millbrae brought up concern that since Millbrae is small, creating two groups could potentially further lessen the amount of involvement from city's leadership. Millbrae wanted to be sure that the council is reflective of everyone in the County. She emphasized that north County is not represented well and needs more representation
- Foster City mentioned that the council was specifically designed so that everyone is represented. He asked if it would stay that way.

- Motion passes with no objections.

**VI. Informational: Recommended Emergency Services JPA Budget**

- Adam Ely, Deputy County Manager, filling in for Michael Leech, County Fiscal.
  - Budget has 3 main components that JPA pays
  - Cost to each city and what they are paying for
  - Updated reduction in costs for stakeholders' explanations
  - Plan to return in June with budget proposal
- RWC asked a question regarding reserves and what are the difference between the two. Considering the ESC is not permitted to hold on to more than 500k she asked about future intentions with the newly acquired money.
- Mr. Ely stated that the Council could raise the cap, but the item needs to be addressed by finance committee.
- RWC made a following comment that since we have had a lot of emergencies so far this year it is cool that we have a lot of additional money and suggested the money would go back to all the cities.
- Millbrae mentioned that we don't have monitors that are good enough to track stuff. Suggested that additional support funds possibly be utilized to support monitoring system such as Oneshoreline's rain gauges and potentially establishing more of them.
- Millbrae also mentioned the CZU Orange skies and seeing if we have necessary monitoring device to track air quality. She prefers holding the additional funding and believes it would behoove the County to tap into monitoring systems for tracking floods as well as a variety of hazards especially in her jurisdiction where she believes is not well represented.
- Belmont brought up the notion that hazmat risks are becoming more of a risk throughout the County. She emphasized that since cities are growing considerably, thinking more about hazmat may be something important for setting money aside. She wanted to know more about how we are preparing for that and asked Chief Thrasher from San Mateo Consolidated Fire to speak on the matter.
- Chief Thrasher emphasized that new infrastructure such as bio research centers present a new dynamic and challenge. They are looking at ways to take care of high-rises and consider options to authorize proposals for large developments to effectively respond. Biotech companies such as Genentech and Gilead Sciences are generally equipped to prepare and respond, but smaller "mom and pop" bio companies are more at risk to increased hazmat incidents.
- Belmont agreed that more work should be done looking into the new hazmat concerns mentioned by Chief Thrasher. She added that while 1.4 million sounds like a lot, she would want to see what other agencies are doing with reserve.
- Mr. Ely agreed and said the County will take a deeper dive in their research concerning this topic.

- Belmont added to the previous point about monitors and how the council needs to increase its collaborative efforts with current monitor systems especially in support of underserved communities. She also emphasized that there is such a thing of having too much wrong information concerning sensors/monitors but would like to engage in discussion in the future
- Millbrae asked a question pertaining to hazmat response and brought up concerns that they are smelling more chemical leaks from SFO and wanted to know how we handle that.
- Chief Thrasher from SMCDF said it is indeed a challenge, but they don't track what the airport has. County Environmental Health may track it, but this task is generally in San Francisco's hands.
- Chief Thorne from SMCDF mentioned that San Mateo does inspections of SFO materials to a degree
- Millbrae emphasized that her concern is more refueling the jets and the chemicals regarding that detail
- HMB also brought up her concern that County landfill located in the HMB is getting worse and flow of hazardous materials has increased as a result from the impact of the storm.
- Chief Thrasher from San Mateo Consolidated stated that his agency primarily focuses on emergency response and not hazards associated with daily workflow.
- RWC asked if there is a County agency that oversees air quality.
- Supervisor Slocum asked what the process is for getting increased monitor data.
- Adam Ely mentioned that the County would have to look at the budget.
- Mr. Mattei stated that the County could get contractor with managing the money for research.
- Supervisor Slocum made it clear that we don't want to lose track of this conversation and wanted to ensure accountability and asked whether it was necessary to put this conversation to a vote pertaining to allocating funding efforts to discussed topics pertaining to hazmat response and monitors.
- Adam Ely ensured DEM will hold responsibility that this this conversation continues.
- Supervisor Slocum brought up point about seasonal help for DEM to talk with CEO Callagy for more Extra Help roles.
- Adam Ely stated that considering the immense storm response from DEM, increased staffing is necessary. Also mentioned Mike Callagy's intent to have the best EOC in the state.
- Supervisor Slocum asked how we track this item and inquired as to how long it will take. He was under the impression that this would be months as opposed to years.
- Adam Ely stated that both he and DEM will need to identify this further.

- Foster City asked if DEM could potentially tap into agencies that currently have monitors out there so we utilize resources out there efficiently and effectively which would also save money.
- San Mateo asked how total percentage was calculated.
- Mr. Mattei explained that we use a formula which calculates cost and sharing
- San Bruno asked about the reserve amount, adding that it would be good to know what ESC's philosophy is regarding savings of this current budget. San Bruno also inquired about radio costs? Is this anticipated thing?
- Mr. Mattei replied that Tac channels went back to Sheriff's Office considering DEM is no longer part of that department.
- Question regarding Measure K funds with SFO
- M Ely not sure of the answer
- San Bruno mentioned that not all equipment is made equal and if one tries to aggregate data, it may not work. He also noted that he is not sure if DEM would be best organization to lead this effort
- Millbrae brought the discussion back to SFO: regarding designated SFO funds - schools are very susceptible to bad particles, let's talk about more about this
- PUBLIC COMMENT
  - NONE

**VII. Approve Agreement for Hazmat Response Team with San Mateo Consolidated Fire**

- To approve entering into an agreement with SMCFD for hazmat response.
  - Chief Thrasher recommended 3-year contract and emphasized their type 2 team capabilities
  - 3 years at 5% covers payroll and other costs
  - Gave background as to why they have hazmat in the County
- San Bruno questioned if there would there be benefits if services were decentralized to accommodate far to get place such as the coast?
- Chief Thrasher's main reason for the requirement of a Countywide plan is a much faster response, the significant expertise his team provides as well as the cheaper cost.
- We don't run a massive number of calls. Calls are a big deal but generally low frequency.
- Expense of training folks to their level would be a challenge and expensive.
- PUBLIC COMMENT
  - NONE

- **Motion passes with no objection.**

**VIII. Approve Agreement for Chief Officer with San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department**

- Mr. Mattei briefed importance of keeping a Fire Liaison within DEM.
- Millbrae asked if people have ability to call Chief Blackman about evacuation? She also brought up evacuation concern related to Uber/Lyft and their potential to block Millbrae Avenue. She wants to know how do we evac out of Millbrae?
- Portola Valley asked the study focus on their southern part of the County.
- Foster City wanted clarity as to whether this is a 2 or 3-year contract.
- Mr. Mattei clarified that it will indeed be a two-year contract.
- PUBLIC COMMENT
  - NONE

**IX. Approve Minutes for Emergency Services Council Meeting (January 26, 2023)**

- Approved with no objections, as a consent item.

**X. Director's Report**

- Mr. Mattei introduced two new Emergency Management Coordinators: Sean Fukamaki and Rick Reed.
- Briefed ESC about County libraries being utilized as a potential resiliency center.
- North Peak Road construction
  - Pushing out this plan
  - Trying to fix the road
- Asked if there was any interest in increasing ESC meetings from 4 to 6 beginning in 2024.
- FEMA Report
  - There is an extension to report newly discovered damage to FEMA for additional assistance.
- Millbrae stated that they have a city library, but contracts with County---she thinks it won't be quite so simple, but she hopes to work with cities in addition to libraries.
- RWC likes Mr. Mattei's library idea
- Supervisor Slocum asked if DEM could push out information on FEMA
- Mr. Mattei thanked DEM and OCA their help and efforts in preparing for this meeting.

## **XI. ESC Member Reports**

- RWC mentioned a resident's experience with flooding on her street.
- HMB working with Sewer Authority adapting their plans to avoid further flooding issues.
- HMB responds to a question regarding the fundraiser for the coast's shooting victims:
  - Fundraiser will take place at the San Mateo Credit Union, 350 Convention Way.
- Foster City thanks staff for organization of ESC Meeting
- Millbrae states that they will be going out to the voters for the fire assessment as there is only one more year left on the contract. She adds that there was a finding that the amount of rain from the storms affected their sewage overflows.
- Portola Valley notes his appreciation for the work that went into the meeting. He did note that there are wiped out roads, Page Mill/Hwy. 92, and is impacting residents. He thanks the County for the efforts to clear the road.