

Association Meeting September 12, 2008 Minot, ND

Meeting called to order at 0845 hours by President Libby Gravning.

Floor is open for discussion.

Some members feel it is important to vote on each measure individually as it is important that legislation know the view of the association on each issue. Greg Wilz reported that the merged counties would receive 25% state, 25% local, and 50% federal funding. They would only need one plan, one shelter plan, etc. The study is done, and the bill is in draft form.

Greg Wilz motioned to vote on EMA adopting the language of the 9-1-1 resolution and pass a vote to adopt. Second by Jerry Bergquist. Discussion: Jerry Bergquist recommended that Gary Kostelecky help write the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Sally Jons motioned to adjourn meeting. Second by Gary Stockert. Motion carried unanimously.

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Meeting called to order at 1145 hours by President Libby Gravning.

Greg Wilz presented each recommendation.

Recommendation # 1 – *The State of North Dakota should implement and fund an Emergency Response and Recovery Fund. This proposed new legislation is based on the resource needs of local/tribal governments when responding to emergencies and disasters which do not reach the levels required for a Presidential Disaster Declaration but still places a severe strain on local government, emergency responders, and citizens.*

Tim Heisler motioned to approve Recommendation 1. Second by Ed Ludwig.
Discussion: Al Reynolds feels it is a bit premature to approve and would like to wait and see what comes out of legislation. Jerry Bergquist stated that voting is not approving legislation, just approving the commendation. Tim Heisler calls for a vote. No other discussion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #2 – *Expand the North Dakota Hazard Chemical Emergency Response Preparedness Program to ensure emergency responders have access to the appropriate training in response to a fire or other emergency that involves hazardous chemicals defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001.*

Gary Kostelecky motioned to approve Recommendation 2. Second by Tammy Lapp-Harris.
Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously

Recommendation # 3 – *Implement legislation that will comply with current FEMA regulations and policies and provides the standards for Mutual Aid Agreements (MOA) between and among jurisdictions and/or emergency responding agencies.*

Mary Senger motioned to approve Recommendation 3. Second by Kitty Knapkewicz.
Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #4 – *Develop a special license plate for emergency responders (fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services) and approve one free vehicle registration for enrolled, active, and certified responders.*

Rick Hummel motioned to approve Recommendation 4. Second by Ilene Hardmeyer.
Discussion: Tammy Roerich questioned the liability issue for family members driving vehicle. Taking the plate is optional. Call for vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation # 5 – *Develop and fund a one-time \$5,000 retirement payment program for volunteer emergency responders with 20 years of active volunteer status as a certified responder.*

Jerry Bergquist motioned to approve Recommendation 5. Second by Brent Nelson.
Discussion: You may be allowed to put additional funds in depending on the plan which will be determined when the program is developed. Retirement plan starts at inception of program, not retroactive. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #6 -- *Adopt legislation that creates a North Dakota Employment Rights Act for volunteer responders.*

Mary Senger motioned to approve Recommendation 6. Second by Gary Kostelecky. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #7 – *Develop legislation that adopts over time nationally recognized standards for fire, law, emergency medical services, and public communications dispatchers.*

Ed Lodwig motioned to approve Recommendation 7. Second by Gary Stockert. Fiscal note: \$190,000 for full time employment to be shared by all associations to put system in and monitor. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #8 – *Establish a minimum certification standard for special operations units within North Dakota.*

Robert Hook motioned to approve Recommendation 8. Second by Rick Hummel.
Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation # 9 – *Authorize funds to purchase or lease the infrastructure and equipment required to add eight additional towers in order to expand State Radio coverage to 95 percent.*

Gary Kostelecky motioned to approve Recommendation 9. Second by Jerry Bergquist.
Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #10 – *Fund the technology package required to transition the current mobile data system (MDS) to high speed broad band access through private enterprise.*

Brent Nelson motioned to approve Recommendation 10. Second by Brent Pringle. Discussion: Where there is cell phone coverage, the high speed card will work. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #11 – *Fund Phase II of Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) within State Radio inclusive of Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) System.*

Al Reynolds motioned to approve Recommendation 11. Second by Ed Lodwig. Discussion: Can't guarantee Bulberry mapping; State Radio gearing toward Bulberry. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #12 – *Adopt legislation that facilitates the transformation of the current Emergency Management model to one of a regional construct. An eight region model should be considered with each region consisting of five to seven counties served by an emergency management team of five highly trained and experienced personnel.*

Tammy Lapp-Harris motioned to approve the adoption of a resolution for Recommendation 12 to support the following: The EMA supports transformation of the emergency model if such legislation is developed which allows counties to merge as an option and the decision is made solely at the local government level by entities party to the merger. Second by Gary Stockert. Motion carried with a few no votes.

Discussion: Motion going to say discretion of county. People need to talk to legislature and keep an eye on legislation. Joint Powers agreement already allows for it now. There are dollars tied to it with a fiscal note attached to allow two years of funding to boost counties wanting to merge. Jerry Bergquist suggested the legislative committee be assigned to develop resolution. If a merge occurs, will there be an emergency manager or the duties given to another entity, i.e. sheriff? The language is written to net gain emergency management with the hiring done through the county. Merging allows for one emergency manager, one plan, and one mitigation for two counties merged.

Recommendation # 13 – *Initiate an Interim Study on the effects Next Generation 911 will have on public service answering points (PSAPs) statewide.*

Jerry Bergquist motioned to approve Recommendation 13. Second by Rick Hummel. Discussion: Should be working in conjunction with 9-1-1 Association who is working on this. The intent here, study with 9-1-1 Association and Association of County on how to make happen in North Dakota and won't know until current study complete. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation # 14 – *Authorize state funding on a regional basis to provide multi-community to regional training and exercising activities to supplement decreasing federal training dollars.*

Tim Heisler motioned to approve Recommendation 14. Second by Ed Lodwig. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation #15 – *Initiate an Interim Study on the feasibility of establishing of a multi-discipline emergency responder academy within North Dakota.*

Al Reynolds motioned to approve Recommendation 15. Second by Gary Kostelecky. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Final Comments:

Comment made that the association needs to draw tighter, legislation committee draw tighter. 9-1-1 Association meetings quarterly, our association meets once a year, maybe twice. Each region holds quarterly meetings where these issues can be discussed. The states two workshops put separation in between east and west, so noted by Greg Wilz.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION, passed.

Ilene Hardmeyer motioned to adjourn meeting. Second by Mary Hanretty. Motion carried unanimously.