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MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EMERGENCY MEETING
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
2:30 PM

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 10-16-17

CALL TO ORDER

An emergency meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 2:31 p.m. by Chair Jim Williams in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room. Selectmen Adam Dash and Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall were present. Vice-Chair Mark Paolillo was not present.

Chair Williams reviewed the agenda and explained the purpose of calling an emergency meeting. The purpose of the meeting, as explained by Chair Williams, was to inform the public of the events that occurred on Monday, June 12, 2017.

Chair Williams asked Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall how she was informed of the blackout. Interim Town Administrator Marshall recalled that the lights in the Town Administration office briefly flickered and she contacted Facilities, DPW, School Department and the Police.

Mike Santoro, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Works recalled a power surge in the Homer building and losing power briefly before the generator came on to power the building. Many calls about the outages came to the Department the Department of Public Works then assisted both the Police and Fire Departments.

Chief Frizzell first noted the power outage when the station noticed a "blip" in their power and then went to the emergency power. The station then began to receive calls from different parts of Town regarding the outage at the High School and the Chenery Middle School. The High School's generator came on and worked properly, the Middle School Generator came on, but that did not turn the lights on. Both schools were then evacuated because it was to be a prolonged outage and the generators are in place as an emergency system and a failsafe to help to safely exit the building.

Jim Palmer explained there was an explosion at a transformer, but due to the preventative maintenance that they perform annually the transformer was protected from substantial damage. Chief Frizzell then talked about the established protocol that the Fire Department has in case an explosion like that does create a fire.

Mr. Palmer reported approximately 2000 customers from Belmont Light lost power. Chief McLaughlin reported that the Police Station was active the station went onto emergency generator power. The Police Station operated in a normal fashion, receiving calls about the outage as well as sending officers to intersections with lights out as well as officers to other calls. Multiple robocalls were made.

Superintendent John Phelan was first informed of the school outages and he was then immediately in contact with the Town Facilities Department Director, Gerry Boyle, who then

began to reach out to all necessary departments. Superintendent Phelan then discussed the emergency plan created by his department along with Fire and Police that is reviewed every year.

High School students were evacuated from their building and then dismissed at 1:20PM. The parents were notified using the School's communication system. The Chenery was under a "stay in place" because that was determined to be the safest option until the buses could arrive and the students could be released class by class. The generator at the Chenery did not work properly and offered minimal power, which is why the Chenery students did not have school today.

Superintendent Phelan thanked every department head in the room for a fast response and for working together so well, he called the response to the day before a success and wanted to thank all involved.

Superintendent Phelan then discussed the failure of the generator and working with the Facilities Department and the Fire Department as well as others in order to make sure that it is working and safe. Selectman Dash then asked about the portable transformer trailer at the power substation. The trailer was in place last night and continues to be used indefinitely until the substation transformer can be fully repaired and energized.

Mr. Palmer discussed the "master plan" to solve these problems. The new substation will not solve these types of problems, but will be the first step of the "master plan" to be executed over the next 10 years.

There are contingency plans that the Light Department has in place. Ms. Marshall indicated that the management team works well together to draw upon resources to be prepared for any situation to make sure people are safe and taken care of in case temporary cooling stations were necessary.

Nava Niv Vogel, Director of the Council on Aging, came to the microphone to echo what others had said about the strong team in place and the procedures that are in place to follow in any situation like this. She also said that they do have a list of people who are potentially at risk in situations such as these and utilize that in order to reach out to those at risk people in the event of an emergency.

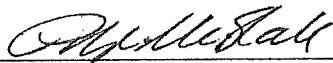
Erin Lubien approached the microphone and said that she thought that the group did a tremendous job in their response to the blackout. She then provided feedback on the communication with the public. If there is a power outage, mobile phone is the only means by which a resident could look for updates; so she suggested that the Light Department look into options for updating their website to be mobile friendly.

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, June 19, 2017 in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room (Town Hall)

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m.



Ms. Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator

