

The Barnes County Commission met in special session Tuesday, February 25, 2011 with all members present, to discuss flood preparations.

Also present were the following: Randy McClafflin, Sheriff; Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Theresa Will, City-County Health Director; David Luessen, Times-Record; Chris Iverson, Court Administrator; Jon Cameron, City of Valley City Administrator; Vicki Zinck, Treasurer; Robbie Hertz and Anna Wittrock, VC Armory National Guard; James Verwey, Veterans' Service Officer; Jim McAllister, Weed Officer; Lee Grossman, State's Attorney; Heather Pautz, Social Services Director; Val Burchill, Social Services; Ken Adams and LeRoy Triebold, Barnes County residents; Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager; and Jason Thiel, MIS Director.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, presented a Barnes County Emergency Operations Procedures standard operating plan. She explained the three emergency activation levels as follows:

Level 3: Monitoring - key personnel involvement;

Level 2: Partial – key personnel and personnel from responding agencies; and

Level 1: Full Activation – all personnel.

Discussion took place on the essential duties of each department.

Ms. Franklin presented a flow chart for the County Incident Command System, designating the tier of command.

Julie Nelson was designated the County Public Information Officer, while Mayor Bob Werkhoven will serve in that position for the City.

Discussion was held regarding designated emergency shelters.

Discussion took place on EOC and emergency phone staffing. At Level 1, a Commissioner should be present at the EOC at all times.

The possibility of using a LaFarge building for Sandbag Central was discussed, as well as whether to have a separate facility from the city, if sand would be delivered, and the costs involved. Franklin will work with LaFarge on the building.

Code Red and responsible decision-makers were discussed. Jon Cameron, City Administrator, stated that any decisions outside the city limits are County responsibility.

Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to authorize Commission members, Sheriff Randy McClafflin, and Kim Franklin as the County decision-makers.

It was stated there will be only one hotline number.

An emergency declaration was discussed.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to adopt the following Emergency Declaration for Flood Emergency. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Resolution 11.4: Barnes County Flood Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, the County of Barnes has the potential for severe spring flooding due to spring thaw, accompanied by expected precipitation and a very high soil moisture content from precipitation received during 2010 and 2011 to include excessive snow fall; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this thaw, runoff, and precipitation threatens the health, well-being and public safety of the citizens of Barnes County; and

WHEREAS, necessary mitigation measures, preparedness actions and other responses must begin immediately to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the potential damage to public and private property in addition to County, Township, and City roads are beyond normal anticipation and budgeted funds; and

WHEREAS, the cost of cleanup, repair and replacement of such damaged facilities are far in excess of County, Township, and City resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners declares an emergency and orders the activation and utilization of the Barnes County Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to recover from the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, reduce hardship and initiate the appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of Barnes County.

Dated in Valley City, North Dakota, this 25th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Cindy Schwehr, Chairman, Barnes County Board of Commissioners

Edward R. McGough, Barnes County Auditor

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to accept the following Memorandum of Understanding between Barnes County and South Central Senior Services and with Dietrich's, both for busing services if needed. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Kerry Johnson to purchase 500 yards of sand to stockpile at the Highway Department.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson
Barnes County Commission