

Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Chairperson Marvin Kohout.

Present: Marvin Kohout, Kara Burda, Sharon Jelinek, Deb Spanyers, Tim McDermott, Rick Korbek, John McKee, Bruce Filipi and Dan Johnson

Absent: Colby Marks, Russ Karpisek, Becky Vales, Lyle Weber and Russ Kalkwarf

- In recognition of a quorum, Kohout informed those present the location of the Open Meetings Law posted in the conference room and the expectation of committee acknowledgment and abidance thereby.
- Filipi moved to approve the agenda, seconded by McKee. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.
- Members present during the Safety Committee meeting, having received, heard & reviewed minutes of the November 20, 2019 Safety Committee meeting, Korbek motioned to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Filipi. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATES:

McDermott reported on the status of the Wellness Committee's work in compiling final data submitted by employees for the 2019 Program year. An expected return of PPI information from Madonna, along with their analyzed points, whereby a conclusive tally can be documented and distributed to all county staff members who had engaged in the program. The standard 'Protest Period' will follow to ensure an accurate calculation of Wellness Points.

In addition, an update on the number of county employees and/or spouses attending the 2020 Health Fair held at both the LEC & Courthouse on February 11th & 12th was provided; of which 88 participants attended in total.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING ADDITION UPDATE:

McDermott provided a brief update on the ongoing difficulty with remaining door hardware to be installed on the secure hallway exiting the elevator on third floor. Learned yesterday, the General Contractor, after much conversation with Berggren Architects have scheduled a meeting to discuss this issue this very day at 10:00 a.m. Beyond this, progress on the County Seal to be mounted in the Courthouse entryway continues to proceed, painstakingly. A future update is hoped to be more conclusive.

NEW BUSINESS:

NIRMA I – PROPERTY and LIABILITY CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

Two (2) claims were discussed at this meeting:

#1: Reported on December 3, 2019 a Law Enforcement Liability (LEL) claim was filed against the County due to an incident(s) occurring on April 20, 2018 contending there was inadequate medical care provided by law enforcement. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Safety Committee voiced the need to withhold a response based on inadequate information provided at the time of this meeting, and the fact this matter is being litigated, along with no available representative(s) from Law Enforcement attending this meeting to help generalize.

#2: Reported on October 30, 2019 a claimant had filed a Public Officials Liability (POL) claim against the county in regards to a wind farm project currently underway. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** Given this to be a litigation matter, comment or any potential future precaution is avoided; assuming the committee could conclude with a substantive response.

NIRMA II - WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

The committee reviewed two (2) claims from the earlier quarter:

#1: Reported on November 22, 2019, a county employee was putting a “skid steer track” back in place. Using a prybar to bring the track onto the drive sprocket, after properly loosening the track tension, the bar and the employee slipped causing minor injury. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Committee suggests that maintaining control of the placement of self and tool, while always using caution, be the lesson taken from this event.

#2: Reported on December 2, 2019, a Sheriff’s deputy sustained blood splatter into the left eye while restraining an inmate in the emergency room. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Committee saw in hindsight that the additional use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) should be used in situations where the likelihood of blood being present exists. However, the Committee having no other information supplied by Law Enforcement at this meeting, will withhold additional comment for the next meeting.

FIRE EVACUATION/SEVERE WEATHER PLANS:

McDermott provided the updates to the General Facility Drill & Evacuation Procedure document along with a Courthouse specific version. An earlier request for other facility managers to supply those existing procedures used by staff and visitors at those county owned locations has yet to be made available.

McDermott also provided a General Severe Weather Emergency Procedure document, along with a Courthouse specific version. An earlier request for other facility managers to supply their current procedures used by staff and visitors has yet to be made available.

Discussion ensued on the likelihood of retrofitting storm shelters in remote shop locations. McKee will help Filipi arrive at local availability and options to be used for possible planning consideration.

Kohout requested that McDermott continue to connect with facility managers to obtain their planned procedures currently in place.

SEVERE WEATHER DRILL/FIRE DRILL:

As storm season approaches, McKee will update the committee and the County Board on date specifics for a Severe Weather Drill and a Fire Drill event, so to prepare.

NEW BUSINESS:

A request for a bottle filler(s) to be retrofitted to Courthouse water fountain(s) be researched; preventing water from ending up on the floor. Johnson was asked to look into this; perhaps limited to a central 2nd floor location.

A brief discussion was held on the value of the recently attended “Cyber Security - Community Preparedness” class, presented by TEEX (Texas AM Engineering Extension) by McKee, McDermott and Kohout. McKee is currently researching more information in which to schedule a training event in the future.

IN CONCLUSION:

- The next meeting of the Saline County Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McDermott – Secretary