

Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Chairperson Marvin Kohout.

Present: Marvin Kohout, Kara Burda, Sharon Jelinek, Deb Spanyers, Tim McDermott, John McKee, Becky Vales and Dan Johnson

Absent: Colby Marks, Russ Karpisek, Lyle Weber, Russ Kalkwarf, Rick Korbelik and Bruce Filipi

- In recognition of a quorum, Kohout informed those present of our abidance of the Open Meetings Law.
- McKee moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Johnson. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.
- Members present during the Safety Committee meeting, having received, heard & reviewed minutes of the February 2, 2020 Safety Committee meeting, Spanyers motioned to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Johnson. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATES:

McDermott reported on the completed work of Wellness Committee's work for the 2019 Program year. Discussions are ongoing by the Committee in consideration of moving all participants into the online, MyVia portal for the 2021 Program year, with or without an all-wearable reporting layer for 'activity' points.

2020 TRAINING DISCUSSION:

A short update, as was well known and understood by all given the current COVID-19 Pandemic, was provided on the limited likelihood of classroom training opportunities the spring, possibly through the summer and maybe again continue through the Fall.

COURTHOUSE WATER FOUNTAIN UPDATE:

In brief, the bottle filler for the mid-building water fountain has been delivered. It now awaits a scheduled install.

SPRING TRAINING DRILLS (TORNADO/FIRE):

Given the current pandemic, it was recommended that each office and/or building review the current protocols previously announced and practiced for those locations.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Update: Kohout provided a brief update on an awaited litigation decision regarding the construction of a windfarm in Saline County. It was said that a determination was made by the court that there was little support to continue the case by the plaintiffs; thereby dismissed.

Two (2) claims were discussed at this meeting:

#1: Reported on January 14, 2020, a vehicle owned and operated by a public citizen of Saline County was traveling upon a Saline County road when a piece of freshly laid crushed rock penetrated one of the tires, causing a flat. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Safety Committee voiced the need to withhold a targeted response based on the lack of information provided at the time of this meeting within the claims report.

#2: Also reported on January 14, 2020, a claimant had filed a General Liability Claim against the County due to a slip and fall on some ice. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** The Committee recognized the hazards of cold and ice during the winter and continues to recommend precautions, such as sand, ice-melt or another form of pre-treatment be placed, to limit the hazard.

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

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

#1: Reported on February 5, 2020, a county employee, the claimant, slipped and fell on the ice. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** While the Committee had limited information in regards to a sustained injury or the location of the slip/fall, the Committee continued to mention the need to recognize the hazards of winter surfaces; step carefully, slowly and generally pay attention to surfaces at risk during the winter. Additional recommendations provide for the application of sand, ice-melt or other such pre-treatment as is needed.

#2: Also reported on February 5, 2020, another county employee, the claimant, slipped and fell on the ice. **COMMITTEE RESPONSE – FUTURE PRECAUTION:** While the Committee had limited information in regards to a sustained injury or the location of the slip/fall, the Committee continued to mention the need to recognize the hazards of winter surfaces; step carefully, slowly and generally pay attention to where/how moving about during the winter. Additional recommendations provide for the application of sand, ice-melt or other such pre-treatment as is needed.

COURTHOUSE REOPENING DISCUSSION – THOUGHTS AND PREPARATIONS

A lengthy discussion was held regarding an anticipated re-opening of county government offices in the near future. Discussed items included, PPE, limited access to buildings, advanced scheduling of office visits, sneeze-guards for environment's in need of them, potential rushes to various offices such as the Assessor, DMV, Clerk, Treasurer and District Court for passports. The County Board will be continuing to hold discussions at Board meetings in June to narrow-down a plan for a reopening date, while also awaiting any new Directed Health Measure by way of the Governor.

IN CONCLUSION:

- The next meeting of the Saline County Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room – or by teleconference given our unknowns.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McDermott – Secretary