



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## EMO COMMITTEE

**DATE:** January 24, 2024

**ATTENDEES:** Susan Cassidy, Councillor Chris Bringloe, John Johnston, John Casey, Ross Mathers, Jason Vallis, Terri Parker (EM Coordinator/CAO-Treasurer), Megan Keenan (staff), Sherri Johnston (staff)

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Councillor Lee Crouse (Attending on behalf of UKFD)

**ABSENT:** Carla Ward, Mike Mockler, Evelyn Fidler

### 1. Meeting Called to Order- 6:00 pm

### 2. Review of the Winter Weather Event (December 19-22, 2023)

The committee discussed for a great length of time what they felt worked well, what could be changed, and what is/may be needed.

#### Communication:

- **What Worked?** Voyent Alert System was used a lot, social media, flyers delivered in some areas door to door.
- **What Didn't Work?** Not everyone had internet or data plans so social media was not an option and not all areas of Hanwell were delivered flyers. (The EM Coordinator at the time was in discussions with NB Power and the most vulnerable areas that NB Power didn't expect power to be restored for a further duration were the ones that flyers were delivered to).
- **What Is/May be Needed?** If wellness checks are being done by our committee, members of Council or the fire department, a form should be drafted so that we have a record of the visit. We should also conduct a "Know Your Four Neighbors" campaign. The EMO committee staff will also contact Bell Media/CBC to see what the process is to have announcements put on the radio for those with AM/FM radios.

#### Home Heating: *An update was provided by Councillor Crouse on behalf of the UKFD*

- **What Worked?** The UKFD delivered heat to approximately 50 homes during the power outage. 2 heaters were rented for the week. These heaters are not intended to provide enough heat to stop pipes from freezing or to thaw water pipes, only to provide some temporary heat. The heat is blown in for about 20 minutes.
- **What Didn't Work?** Majority of calls were going to Chief Crouse's cell. The trucks that were used, were hauling trailers and was difficult to maneuver on resident's property. Calls were coming in from Dumfries, Keswick and Fredericton areas that are not in our jurisdiction.
- **What Is/May be Needed?** Set up a designated phone number with 2-3 firemen/volunteers. Training is necessary to triage the calls and everyone ask the same questions. Currently the UKFD owns one heater, we should investigate the cost of purchasing or applying for a grant to get additional heaters, in the event we are not able to rent them in the future due to a larger emergency. Additional trucks may be required to be rented to haul heaters. Best solution would be to have a truck that is capable of having the heater and a generator mounted to the back of it.



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### Generator:

- **What Worked?** The portable generator located at Hanwell Fire Station #2 was transported to the Yoho Scout Lodge so that a warming centre could be opened.
- **What Didn't Work?** During the emergency we had to depend on a member of the Yoho Lake Association to transport the generator to the lodge as our truck was being used to transport the heaters to the homes. Due to the isolation of the lodge, the generator had to be moved at the end of the warming centre shift to a specified location and then transported back again the next day. Currently, fire station #2 has to manually open the bay doors if the fire station doesn't have power and the generator has been transported to Yoho Scout Lodge.
- **What Is/May Be Needed?** Another generator should be purchased for Hanwell Fire Station #2. Hanwell staff can investigate the cost see if there are any grants available.

### Warming Centres:

- **What Worked?** The opening of the centres worked very well. Fire Station 1 was opened and people went for showers, and water for flushing. Fire Station 2 was opened periodically when the fire department were there. Hanwell Community Centre opened for showers, water, potable water, breakfast-lunch-supper were served. Yoho Scout Lodge was opened for food (snacks), coffee, showers and water.
- **What Didn't Work?** Bottles of water were purchased but very difficult to find. These bottles of water were distributed at the Fire Station in Kingsclear. For the residents at Yoho Lake, communication and signage was the biggest factor.
- **What Is/May Be Needed?** 4L bottles of water instead of individual bottles, signage that a warming centre is opened for Station 1 & 2 as well as the Scout Lodge. EMO staff will contact CR Signs to get pricing. A tally of how many people used the centres. Contact the local hotels to see if they have a generator and ask if they provide special pricing so that this could be communicated with our residents in the future. A cell phone booster is required for the Scout Lodge. The committee suggested that we purchase a booster and it can be used during the emergency and then returned to the office as we shouldn't be purchasing equipment for a building that isn't owned by Hanwell.

**Birchwood Water Treatment Facility:** This facility is owned by the province but due to the power outage our residents were without water for an extended period of time as water can not be used until 2 water sample tests are administered and approved acceptable, then they are required to boil their water for a certain amount of time. The EM Coordinator had contacted the engineer that looks after the facility to ask if there was anything that the committee could do to help. We discussed the possibility of a generator being purchased. The committee discussed this during the meeting and feels that the Mayor should write a letter to the Department of Environment and Local Government as well as the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure as it is their systems but is affecting our residents.



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### 3. Committee's Future Tasks

The committee discussed items that we should work on in the coming meetings. It is important that we continue working on plans, training and being proactive.

Some future meetings topics:

- Home Heating Process- We will have the examples from Harvey & Bath
- Roles & Responsibilities- Review of our committee member roles
- Red Cross Agreement
- Contingency Plan/Risk Analysis
- Table top Exercises
- Review of the NBEMO Planning Guide for Municipal Officials

### 4. Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm

Our next meeting will be held on February 28 at 6pm. These meetings are open to the public and are recorded and placed on our website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri L Parker  
CAO/Treasurer  
EM Coordinator