BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
EMA MEETING / HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2020
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 – 4:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman W. Robert Kusmer, Trustees Richard A. Geyer and Philip F. Klausz, Fiscal Officer Ellen Ickes, and Superintendent Bill Lagrou.

Also present: Sandy Hovest and Lauren Yeagle of Resource Solutions, and Lisa Kuelling from Sandusky County EMA.

Sandy explained that Resource Solutions was hired to contract for the (2020) Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) for Sandusky County. It takes up to 12 months to write a good Hazard Mitigation Plan. There are matches available to local money. Sandy said there is a lot of money out there and the federal government will help with flooding, shelter houses, warning systems, for example, to lessen damage and costs. Storms, tornadoes, flooding erosion are imminent and the plan also includes haz mat spills, water quality issues, land substance issues, and erosion along waterways. The plan does not cover terrorism or cyber-terrorism or public health emergencies.

The plan is a result of the Robert Stafford Act, and the federal government covers a minimum of 75%, which is a good deal. There is a regular grant cycle that covers the same as a CBDG (50/50). An example of this is a flood. The other option is when money is available after an incident has been declared a disaster and, in that case, there is a 75% federal share, a 12.5% state share, and a 12.5% local share. This year nothing was declared a disaster here. Celina, Ohio had a tornado and, in February, there was a lot of flooding. HMP money was available to the whole state, and Sandusky County had money in there for them.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) flood match has $410 million federally available for the whole country. They used to think it was good when $32 million was available, and then $63 million became available, and now they are at $410 million.

FEMA requires the mitigation study every five years.

There are benefits to the match. For every dollar spent, there is a benefit of $6.00-$9.00. For flooding, the benefit is $9.00.

There is a new program known as "BRICK", Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities. It is 6% of the previous amount and exists for creating insfrastructure. It can be used for streets, storm sewers that have not been maintained, and power lines.

PDM is competitive. You have to prove that you save more than $1 if you get $1. Bob Kusmer said Timpe Rd. might be considered for this and Lisa Kuelling agreed. Wightmans's Grove is being considered for this according to Lisa.

There is a lot of money believed to be for infrastructure and it is important to get applications going. BRICK will probably be a 75/25% split. The Stafford Act dictates 75% minimum, so it could possibly be more.

CDBG is maybe for the whole township, and Sandy said the guidance is coming because it is yet to be determined.

If there is any glimmer of anything the township wants, be sure to put it in your mitigation plan and get it in now.

Lauren stated that the 2015 goals and 2020 goals will be different.

Sandy asked how the impact of severe storms change things in Ballville Township. Is there more flooding? It was discussed that there is land erosion along the river. Trustee Kusmer advised that the Blue Bank has bad erosion issues. Someone here recently at a trustees' meeting came seeking help on a rental property he fears he will lose due to erosion on the river. It was estimated that 15 people probably are affected from undercutting by river water. Mr. Kusmer stated that the water table is causing saturation in the ground and the weight of the ground is pushing it up. The township has a road that was just repaired, and they still have subsidence there (Darr Rd.). The berm was washing away. The township spent about $50,000 to save the road previously and just spent $5,000 to shore it up. There is sandy soil and brown clay out here.

Sandy asked about bridges (they are maintained by the county engineer) and culverts, but there are none that we know. The county gets on them right away. High rains of 3-4" cause flooding arcoss a road which was "fixed" by farmers installing a 12" tile - which seemed like a good idea at the time. Trustee Kusmer said there are 2-3 areas with storm problems. The township repaired Stahl Road drainage a few years ago. When there are heavy rains, it usually takes a day to open up the road again.

Debris in ditches and waterways was discussed. Mr. Lagrou said corn fodder is a big problem. Lisa said invasive species has been added. Emerald ash is no longer a problem because those trees are all dead. Oak trees are a problem now. Bill said mare's tail is coming out and stays out there in the fields because it is difficult to kill off. Sandy said it takes two years to eradicate "morning glory" because the roots go down 30 feet.

Wind damage and tornado damage, mobile homes, areas with homes and no basement, shelters to go to, and warning systems were discussed. Bill Lagrou suggested the Ballville Fire Dept. basement as a current shelter location. The new schools in Fremont are being built to new FEMA guidelines. The homes in the township are probably half and half slab/basements.

Water quality was discussed as well as the loss of wells in the township. The township has well water, rural water, and some city water. There are more wells than anything. Shallow wells that were 40-60 years old started to dry up in the 1980s.

Sanitary sewers are found in high-density subdivision areas and rural homes have septic systems.

Storm sewers are probably the township's biggest problem as some are extremely undersized.

There has been no major wind damage reported since 2013 when there was a wind sheer tornado. In 2014 we had really heavy snow and ice.

Every week there are power outages and they are a quick pop off/pop on, more so with AEP than Toledo Edison customers. AEP is updating the main line to Fostoria.

It was asked if there are generators where they are needed. The Ballville Fire Dept. and the township have them to keep their buildings running. The Fire Dept. has electricity for oxygen users, and Mr. Lagrou said that many residents get their own whole-house Generac generators. The Fire Dept. needs to know if a residence has a generator in case they respond to an emergency and pull the power because they need to know if a generator would kick in.

Sandy said townships are not considered separately/individually, but would be under the county. Anything a township brings up in the HMP would be good/available for all of the other townships. Five years ago they called out each township, so that is a change for 2020's HMP. With the money that is available, Sandy said call it "county". The plan is good for five years. She wants to maximize the benefit and not put limitations which makes it much easier for townships.

There is a Vulnerability Statement which states all the things that could go wrong. They want to make it worse-case scenario, and the report makes it look like things are really bad. Sandy advised that this explains the obvious so that anyone can understand it. She said that the person who reviews this is in Arizona, for example, and might not relate to what we have here in Sandusky County.

Strategies are the ideas the township has, but they are not necessarily projects.

If an area floods continually, you may consider tearing the houses down. Acquisition/demolition strategies were discussed.

Sandy noted that FEMA wants to know that you are not asking for money for half-baked ideas. There must be a good, researched plan to provide the maximum benefit and she stressed that it is very important to show it will be worth more than it costs.

She went through the 2015 mitigation plan which listed flooding was a goal. She advised to always leave acquisition/demolition in there. She asked trustees what they thought about it.

Lauren wanted to discuss ice structures. The City of Fremont owned the Ballville Dam, which has been removed and an ice structure was put in. The biggest problem is that while the ice structure is meant to break up ice, it also catches trees, logs, debris, etc. which builds up/backs up and creates its own dam. As a result, there is undercutting on the far side around the log jam and an erosion of sorts. Concrete with rebar along the edge was buried there and it is carried down the river and it has damaged watercraft – it creates a dangerous condition. Erosion is taking its toll on the concrete.

Public awareness and outreach and warning systems were discussed.

Shelters and comfort stations were discussed. Do people have shelter? Sandy advised to keep construction of safe rooms in there. People can apply for this, so keep it. Lisa stated that community safe rooms are open to residents who don't have basements. These buildings are not meant to be left sitting empty and only used as a safety facility. Instead, they should have multi-purpose use; i.e. a building that is rented out for weddings, a township office building, etc. that can be used however you want with the shelter available as needed.

Sandy said she will send the Vulnerability Statement to the township and she would like feedback on it. Corrections should be made to items also. She is planning on year-end and 2020 to review. The sections to review are called SANDUSKY COUNTY and this includes the townships and unincorporated areas. Townships are part of the county HMP.

Trustee Klausz asked about the money available for the safe rooms. Sandy stated that an individual homeowner can ask for this themselves. There is a summer timeframe for that and every application is considered. Delaware State Park and Lucas County just did this. You must prove your size requirement. It could be a township house. It must be open and available for use as a safe room.

Kusmer will get back with Sandy and Lauren about storm sewers.

The meeting concluded at 5:17 p.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by Ellen K. Ickes, Fiscal Officer

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