

CITY OF ANTIGO
AD HOC WEATHER WARNING SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
JULY 02, 2025

Ad Hoc Weather Warning System of the City of Antigo met in Regular Meeting on the above date at 6:01 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room, City Hall, Chairperson Glenn Bugni presiding.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Glenn Bugni	Chairperson	Present	
Barb Rebstock	Ward 1	Absent	
Joel Wagner	Ward 6	Present	
Jeff Geiger	Member	Present	
Hank Bie	Member	Present	
Rhonda Christian	Member	Present	
Darla Hoerman	Member	Present	
Benjamin Baumgartner	Member	Absent	

Others in Attendance were: Daniel Duley, Police Chief; Shannon Smith, Administrative/Clerical Assistant; Roy Dieck, Alderperson Ward 2 and Destiny Geiger.

Discussion and Action May Occur on Any of the Following Agenda Items

1. Review of Previous Weather Warning Agendas Shown Below to Determine Status of Project (the Weather Warning agendas are in Reverse Chronological Order)

Alderperson Bugni began the meeting with introductions of committee members. He provided a history of the 2023 Weather Warning System Meetings. Alderperson Bugni stated the last meeting concluded with searching for a grant to cover the cost of sirens. He stated the majority of the research and work in 2023 was completed by then Director of Administrative Services, Mark Desotell. Alderperson Bugni noted he provided the committee with several handouts from work compiled in 2023.

Alderperson Bugni stated in May 2023 the committee defined their purpose was to find an alternative method of weather warning notification. He noted in July of 2023 the committee came up with cost figures for five sirens at \$142,000 for hardware only. Alderperson Bugni noted the five sirens would have covered the entire City. He noted the City had previously had two sirens that were becoming outdated, one being on the Middle School. Dan Duley, Police Chief noted the other was by park on Ackley Street. Alderperson Bugni stated the sirens needed to be updated or the City needed to decide on an alternative method of warning, noting the Council ultimately decided on Everbridge. He stated the final total for hardware and installation of the sirens was approximately \$240,000 not including minor yearly maintenance, noting in the winter the sirens need to be heated.

Alderperson Bugni noted at the October 2023 meeting the annual cost of maintenance and power were questioned. He stated there were concerns of liability if sirens do not work properly, noting there is no liability for the city not having sirens currently. Ms. Hoerman questioned liability the City would have noting in her research, cities she contacted stated there basically was no liability. Chief Duley stated he believed Kaye Matucheski, Clerk-Treasurer/Finance Director brought forward information from the City's insurance company stating there could be liability on the City if something happens and the sirens do not get set off. Alderperson Bugni stated there is a \$25,000 deductible as well. Ms. Christian stated due to the perceived liability and insurance if sirens are installed the City would need record of how and what was communicated with the community about the sirens being an assisted weather notification.

Ms. Christian stated she does not feel a third party should be in charge of notifications for the

City. Chief Duley noted that Everbridge is a mass notification system for communication and noted the National Weather System puts out alerts on a mass notification system as well. He stated he called the National Weather System this week in preparation for the meeting and questioned how many tornado warnings the City of Antigo has had in the last ten years, stating he was told five.

Aldersperson Bugni noted that is not a lot of warnings, but the City needs to be prepared, and the weather is getting more volatile than ever. Ms. Hoerman stated the sirens are not only for tornados but hail over a certain size and straight-line winds as well. Chief Duley stated it would depend on what you set your system to alert for.

Aldersperson Bugni noted in June of 2023 Travis Krueger, Langlade County Emergency Management, reported he emailed a number of counties to see who had a weather siren. He noted that Mr. Krueger provided information for a number of counties that had sirens, stating a majority being ran by Cities, noting Shawano County had a County wide system.

Aldersperson Bugni stated once the committee has an updated cost, the next steps would be a community survey. He stated there needs to be different ways to access the survey, noting that part of the issue with Everbridge is access to technology. Ms. Hoerman questioned how much a weather radio costs the City and how many are provided to residents, noting that they are only for City residents. Aldersperson Bugni stated in 2023 the City ran out and the Council needed to approve purchasing more. There was a discussion about weather radio availability and the possibility of advertising.

Aldersperson Bugni provided the procedure for activating the old sirens which took place at the Police Department. He also provided activation processes for a number of other cities, noting that information was provided at the August 2023 meeting. Aldersperson Bugni noted Ms. Matucheski stated in August of 2023 that she spoke with a number of area clerks, and they would be or are going to discontinue their sirens. He stated the Fire Department's protocol for a tornado warning is they take their equipment to different locations in the City. He noted that the County dispatch center was determined to be the best location for siren activation, mentioning Mr. Krueger stated the County dispatch center is already overwhelmed. Aldersperson Bugni noted that City Attorney, Michael Winter stated there is no liability for the City if there is not a warning system but putting in a warning system could be a liability. He noted it was suggested that a motion was presented to Council questioning if they were willing to assume the liability of having a siren system, stating that would be a recommendation this committee would need to make to Council if funding is secured. Ms. Hoerman stated the County dispatch had the responsibility of setting off the siren in the past, noting they had that liability in the past. Chief Duley noted the County would want the City to sign a hold harmless agreement, relieving them of any liability.

There was discussion on who would be callers authorized to activate the system, noting Mr. Krueger stated the County would recognize a call from a first responder or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Aldersperson Bugni noted Mr. Gieger informed him Storm Chasers call NOAA to report weather.

Aldersperson Bugni handed out the 2023 quote from ASC Mass Notification Solutions for a recommended five siren system at the cost of \$142,388.40 for hardware only.

RESULT:	INFORMATION ONLY
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2. Project Status

Aldersperson Bugni stated the first step in this process is a community survey to see if residents want a siren system. There was discussion about using electronic and paper surveys and a decision made that only City residents should take the survey. There was discussion of what

questions should be on the survey. Ms. Christian questioned if the topic could be a referendum to ensure only City residents are voting on it. Chief Duley stated funding is the biggest issue right now, he suggested sending a survey to foundations to see how willing they are to fund this project.

RESULT: INFORMATION ONLY

3. Financing of Weather Warning Project

There was discussion about the maintenance of the siren system and possibly getting that service donated.

Aldersperson Wagner questioned sending funding support surveys to the major businesses in Antigo. Ms. Hoerman suggested looking at the five locations and asking businesses in those areas to sponsor putting sirens on their building and maintain them.

Ms. Christian suggested getting businesses to commit to donating a certain amount of funding for five to ten years.

Aldersperson Bugni stated a list of businesses and foundations need to be created.

RESULT: INFORMATION ONLY

4. Community Survey on the Need for Weather Warning Sirens

There was discussion about how to verify surveys are being taken by city residents and how long the survey would run. It was determined the survey should be available to the public for a month.

There was discussion about securing private funding before putting out a survey to residents.

Aldersperson Bugni stated for the next meeting he will work on a list of businesses and foundations to be contacted. He noted the survey may be the second task but a question for a survey needs to be developed. Ms. Hoerman stated she would work on the survey.

Aldersperson Dieck stated he feels this community endeavor would be supported by businesses.

RESULT: INFORMATION ONLY

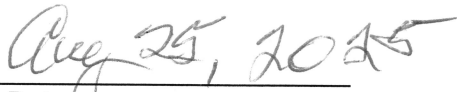
Next meeting date set for Wednesday, August 6th at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

IV. Motion to: Adjourn at 7:13 PM

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Wagner, Ward 6
SECONDER:	Darla Hoerman, Member
AYES:	Bugni, Wagner, Geiger, Bie, Christian, Hoerman
ABSENT:	Barb Rebstock Benjamin Baumgartner


Glenn Bugni, Chairperson


Date