

CITY OF ANTIGO
AD HOC WEATHER WARNING SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
MAY 23, 2023

Ad Hoc Weather Warning System of the City of Antigo met in Regular Meeting on the above date at 3:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room, City Hall, Chairperson Glenn Bugni presiding.

Discussion

1. Introduction of Members

Mr. Bugni called the meeting to order and began by introducing himself. Mr. Bugni asked that each person in the room introduce themselves.

Members: Jeff Geiger; Hank Bie; Joel Wagner; AJ Jansen; Mayor Terry Brand; and Barbara Rebstock.

Others in attendance: Destiny Geiger; Travis Krueger, Langlade County Sheriff's Office/Emergency Management Director; Daniel Duley, Police Chief; Mark Westen, Langlade County Sheriff; and Cheryl Barta, Administrative Assistant.

2. Discussion of Weather Warning System

Mr. Bugni stated the purpose of the Committee is to improve the emergency warning system, to maybe add another layer to it if it is financially possible, to look at what the City has and what other communities have as well.

Mr. Bugni reported Mayor Brandt and he worked on the system back in 2015, meetings were held and no one had any interest and did not show up at meetings.

Mr. Bugni also reported the system needed repairs and he believed the system was not well maintained and now the system is gone.

Mr. Bugni reported there are other warnings available, Everbridge for one, but he reported he uses Channel 9, but when the storm hits it is no longer available.

A discussion of what other systems are available in the area and it was decided Everbridge is the only system available.

Travis Krueger explained the Everbridge is multifunctional and citizens can sign up for more than just weather alerts.

Sheriff Westen explained there are several ways the alerts/notifications can be received, not just via cell phones.

Upon Alderperson Rebstock's inquiry of how to sign up, Sheriff Westen reported the biggest challenge with Everbridge is that not everyone knows how to opt in and many do not know the program is available. Once you are able to opt in for the notifications you want to receive, it is a very good program.

Ms. Rebstock stated there should be advertising that this program is available and Sheriff Westen noted a massive advertising campaign was done previously, for a three year period, of nonstop advertising to get the information out to the community. He also noted a lot of people still did not get it.

Deputy Krueger reported his office has pamphlets, he talks about, and every time he fills in for the Sheriff on the Breakfast Club he mentions it. He also reported Economic Development talks about it often as well.

There was a discussion of where the pamphlets could be placed where people obtain them.

Mayor Brand also noted that maybe times should be set up to help others get opted in to the Everbridge program on their computers.

Mr. Westen wanted everyone to recognize why the decision was made to remove the sirens. He noted there was an astronomical cost to maintain the system. He also noted that if a new system is purchased there would not only be the initial cost of the system but the additional cost of maintaining the system. He noted the sirens were great to notify a certain group of people that live in the proximity of the city, the major populous. However, now that the sirens are no longer there, he wanted to remind the Committee the City would have to identify a funding source and maintenance and upkeep, which are major factors and unfortunately, money is always a major factor in decisions.

Mr. Bie reported FEMA leases the sirens.

Mr. Bugni reported the Committee is studying any and all options available as far as grants, etc. Mr. Bugni reported he would like to know what other cities have.

Sheriff Westen reported Mr. Krueger would be able to reach out to his contacts and receive information rather quickly.

Mayor Brand reported cities with comparable populations should be contacted and the information, including costs is data the Committee would need to discuss prior to the City making any kind of decisions.

Mr. Krueger agreed that he can reach out to his contacts of what type of systems they are using, how they are covering the costs of those systems. Upon Mr. Bugni's inquiry of researching systems available, Mr. Krueger reported there were siren vendors at the Governor's Conference that he was at but he did not check into them at that time because it was not anything that the City had. He reported he would see if he could get a list of vendors from the conference and get that to Mr. Bugni.

Upon Mr. Bugni's inquiry of researching available grants, Mr. Krueger reported he could check into grants. Police Chief Duley reported grants are good for upfront costs but there are costs on the backside.

Mr. Jansen reported he will check further into the Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (FEMA IPAWS program), which Mr. Krueger had mentioned is more than just emergency alerts.

Mayor Brand reported he could check with state legislators to see if they are aware of any grant programs.

Mr. Bugni stated the main objective of the Committee is not to replace, the main objective is to supplement and add another layer of protection, depending on the cost, see if there are options available or too cost prohibitive the Committee will know that.

Aldersperson Wagner suggested the City could ask for donations for the purchase of the warning system.

Mayor Brand reported Aldersperson Wagner should be added to the list of members.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Information only.

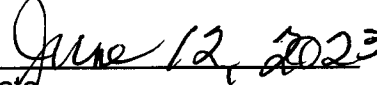
Adjournement

1. **Motion to:** Adjourn at 4:45 PM

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barb Rebstock, Ward 1
SECONDER:	Terry Brand, Mayor
AYES:	Bugni, Rebstock, Jansen, Brand, Geiger, Bie



Glenn Bugni, Chairperson



Date