

CITY OF ANTIGO
AD HOC WEATHER WARNING SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
JUNE 12, 2023

Ad Hoc Weather Warning System of the City of Antigo met in Regular Meeting on the above date at 4:00 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	Present	
Joel Wagner		Late	4:01 PM
AJ Jansen	Member	Absent	
Terry Brand	Mayor	Present	
Jeff Geiger	Member	Present	
Hank Bie	Member	Present	

Others in attendance: Destiny Geiger; Reinhardt Balcerzak, Alderperson Ward 8; Mark Desotell, Director of Administrative Services; Travis Krueger, Langlade County Emergency Management Director; and Cheryl Barta, Administrative Assistant.

Discussion of Collected Information

Travis Krueger, Langlade County Emergency Management Director, reported he had reached out to the surrounding counties and only received a few responses. He reported that Vilas County does not have any sirens. Mr. Krueger provided information on different Fire Departments in cities of similar size

Mr. Krueger also reported that he had spoken with someone from the Village of Wittenberg and was told that the system was inoperable for numerous years. He was also told the Village put some money into repairs and estimated it to be \$1,400, but was unsure of that cost. Mr. Krueger reported Sheboygan Warning Systems had done the repair.

Mr. Krueger further reported the contact advised that a new system was thought to be around \$25,000. Mr. Krueger's Regional Management Director reported the cost would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Krueger reported the Village of Gresham has sirens from Century Siren out of Colorado and it was reported the system was repaired approximately nine years ago for about \$3,000.

Mr. Krueger also reported he talked to someone at the Crandon Fire Department and their siren system was installed in the 1940s, had no issues for at least 35 years and is manually activated.

Mr. Krueger noted no one pays a maintenance fee, repairs are paid on an as needed basis and no one believed there are any grants available for warning systems.

Mr. Desotell reported he spoke with Brad Henricks, the former Emergency Management Director for Langlade County and he reported there were no grants available for the warning system.

Mr. Krueger reported the warning system in Shawano County goes through their dispatch center. He further explained that Sheriff Westen was not sure that Langlade County's dispatch center would be able to handle the warning system going through their department due to being short staffed.

Mr. Krueger directed the Committee reach out to those on the list that he provided as no other Emergency Management person was involved in the warning system.

Mr. Bugni and Mr. Wagner reported they could reach out to some of the cities around the area.

Mr. Krueger reported his Regional Management Director believed investing in weather radios would be more beneficial than the sirens.

Mr. Desotell reported that in 2003 two warning sirens were installed for about \$33,000 and in 2015 it was recommended that a third siren be added for better coverage and that was roughly estimated at \$50,000. He stated with adding a third siren and additional wiring, with the cost of inflation, he believed the cost would be around \$100,000.

Upon Mr. Bugni's statement that he likes the idea of a survey, Mr. Krueger reported it would be better to have an estimated cost before distributing a survey.

Mr. Desotell recommended instead of getting quotes at this stage that he reach out to American Signal Corporation, if they are still in business. He noted the company had done some mapping with a 3 siren proposal in 2015 and they may be able to provide an updated proposal.

Mr. Desotell noted that the two locations of where the old sirens were before they were removed would need to be relocated for more beneficial coverage. He also noted there would be additional costs for relocating power as well.

There was a discussion of different types of warning system notifications and other processes that need to be followed as well as departments to be involved in those processes.

Mayor Brand reported his task was to contact state and federal representatives and he noted he had contacted Callahan, Felzkowski and Tiffany. He reported they were all shocked that the sirens had been removed and believed that all municipalities had a system.

Mayor Brand also reported the representatives were not aware of any funding available and they all suggested it would be a great project for a local foundation and they would be more sympathetic towards it because it would be affecting their community versus someone who has no interest in the City of Antigo. They were concerned if state or federal funds were applied for and awarded as they believe there could be some strings attached.

Mayor Brand noted there may be some foundations that would support the need and if the City finds the funds to maintain the system they may be able to provide funds to install the system.

Mr. Wagner suggested looking into private funding from companies.

Upon Mayor Brand's inquiry if there is a report on the number of people using the weather system in Everbridge, Mr. Krueger reported he just received a report from Keri Beck at the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Krueger noted he will provide the Mayor with a copy.

Mr. Desotell noted that he has spoken with AJ Jansen, Information and Technology Director, about annually working with the Senior Center to get people signed in to the Everbridge alert program. Mr. Krueger reported two leaders from the Senior Center came to him to get set up on Everbridge and their intent was to help members get signed up.

Mr. Desotell stated he would check with American Signal about an updated cost then the Committee can start other processes if that is the direction the Committee decides to go.

Mr. Desotell also stated he will reach out to the Wisconsin City/County Manager's Association to ask questions to collect information from other communities regarding if they have a mass communication system for weather warnings, if they supplement those programs and who activates the system(s).

Upon Mr. Bugni's inquiry of who has been assigned tasks, Mr. Desotell stated he will be sending out a survey to other communities and getting an updated price estimate. Upon his completion of those tasks, Mr. Bugni will be making calls to get additional information and Mayor Brand will contact communities that use the Everbridge alert program to collect statistics.

Next meeting scheduled for July 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

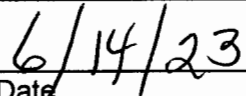
Adjournment

1. **Motion to:** Adjourn at 4:55 PM

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Wagner
SECONDER:	Terry Brand, Mayor
AYES:	Bugni, Rebstock, Wagner, Brand, Geiger, Bie
ABSENT:	AJ Jansen



Glenn Bugni, Chairperson



Date