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2 **Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting**
3 **GI-REMC**
4 **August 5, 2024 – Draft Minutes**
5 **Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual**
6

7 **Attendance:** Brandy Latimer (NH EMD), Pat Robinson (SHVFD), Bill Baron (GI EMD/ GIFD), Ray Allen
8 (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Ron Kumetz (Alburgh VFD), Peter Clark (C/N FD),
9 Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Harry Schoppmann (VEM).

10
11 President Mike Murdock chaired the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

12
13 **Public Comment** - None.

14
15 **Changes to Agenda** – None.

16
17 **Minutes**

18 *Pat motioned to approve the minutes of the June Meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried.*
19

20 **Treasurer's Report** – Mike read the information that Melissa provided which included the July 2023 to
21 June 2024 Profit & Loss Statement, and the June and July Balance Sheets, and the deposits made to the
22 Community Bank account. Net income was \$1,763.12 and the balance of the account is \$43,403.16. The
23 information was distributed at the meeting and sent to members by email earlier today.

24
25 *Bill motioned at approve the Treasurer's Report. Pat seconded. Motion carried.*
26

27 Shaun read one bill that Melissa sent by email earlier for U I Insurance in the amount of \$4,659.

28
29 *Pat motioned to pay the U I Insurance bill for the full amount. Bill seconded. Motion carried.*
30

31 **Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee**

32 **VEM Update**

33 Harry reported:

- 34 • Recovery operations continue from the 3 major storm to hit portions of the state: June 27 storm
- 35 for Stowe, July 7 storm that hit NEK and Central Vermont, and the July 29 storm that hit NEK again.
- 36 • State is tracking tropical storm Debby as it makes its way up the east coast.
- 37 • Binary Blizzard statewide tabletop exercise to be held in October.
- 38 • The 2024 Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held September 10th-11th, 2024
- 39 in person at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT with limited sessions available virtually. REMC has
- 40 one free room for anyone interested.

41
42 **Committee Updates (THIRA, LEPC, TPW)**

43 Brandy reported that she attended the state's LEPC meeting on July 9. They reviewed the new OSHA
44 standards that are being proposed for fire departments. Public comments for the standards closed.
45 Mike noted that he provided comments on the proposed standards.

46
47 *Bill motioned for Brandy to be the REMC representative to receive the free room for the conference. Ron*
48 *seconded. Motion carried.*
49

50 **Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association**

51 **GICMAA Status**

52 Ron reported that he was having issues with logging into the Secretary of State portal for registering
53 nonprofits. He is waiting for a call back. There is a \$270 filing fee for expired entities. Jodi is still
54 registered as the administrator so that would need to get changed for another \$35.

55
56 *Pat motioned for Ron to pay up to \$305 for Secretary of State filing. Bill seconded. Motion carried.*

57
58 Mike reported that GICMAA received its non-profit status in 2009. A notice that the non-profit status
59 was in jeopardy was sent on March 11, 2013. There is a list of steps to get the status back. He noted
60 that Ann Cadmus from ABT Services, LLC has been helping. Ann does the taxes for North Hero VFD.

61
62 GICMAA would have to draft a letter to the IRS with an explanation for reasonable cause for failing to
63 file annual tax returns as well as providing three years of financial records including tax filing. If the IRS
64 accepts the reasonable cause, GICMAA may be exempt from fees for not filing. Small tax-exempt
65 organizations generally are eligible to file Form 990-N to satisfy their annual reporting requirement
66 if their annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.

67
68 *Pat motioned to hire Ann Cadmus from ABT Services, LLC to assist GICMAA with reinstating its tax-*
69 *exempt status. Ray seconded. Motion carried.*

70
71 **FY26 Budget Discussion**

72 Adam advised that GICMAA should start building the budget in time for departments to bring to
73 Selectboards in the fall. The next meeting is in October and we should have a good idea then what the
74 budget should like to bring to the Selectboards. Given the new tax bills, all selectboards will be closely
75 reviewing municipal finances.

76
77 Mike said the budget contains line items for dispatching services, insurance, PO Box, county training and
78 propane. Ron offered to contact Shelburne regarding any increases in dispatching rates. Typically,
79 increases are 2-3% annually.

80
81 Mike will resend the budget numbers out to the group. Ron will send out rate increase for dispatch
82 once he has it. Adam noted he would like to have the budget ready to bring to selectboard in
83 November.

84
85 **County Emergency Services Coordinator Position**

86 Bill reported that works continues in trying to find funding and support for the position. He and Brandy
87 are working on a job description. Funding may be available through a SAFER grant. Shaun will follow up
88 with grant eligibility information.

89
90 There was some discussion on supervision, duties, overhead costs, and payroll services to support the
91 position. Bill replied that it is to be determined. The focus now is finding funding for the position
92 without having to ask for funding from towns. The selectboards were generally supportive but wanted
93 more detailed information which isn't available.

94
95 **App Based Response/Reporting Update** – No update. Adam is waiting on licensing costs from one of
96 the GIVFD members.

97
98 **Maps Request**

99 Adam reported that NRPC can provide poster community 911 maps and atlases. Shaun explained this
100 was a service NRPC provided when approached by a fire department years ago that found the 911 board
101 atlases difficult to use. The atlases show the 911 addresses and structures by road in alphabetical order
102 by road name. It was popular before everything was available on-line. One hardcopy of each is free for

103 each department. Each additional map costs \$15.00 each and road atlases are approximately \$30
104 (varies by number of roads).
105
106 A discussion began on whether paper copies were needed when the data is available on line that you
107 can see using a phone, tablet or laptop. Shaun said to contact him if anyone is interested in hard copies.
108
109 **County Based Wildland Firefighting Asset**
110 No report.
111
112 **Department and EMD Updates**
113 North Hero: Brandy reported the town is working on their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Mike
114 looking for some funding and a grant writer to support the fire station build.
115
116 Alburgh: EV Training next month.
117
118 Grand Isle: Bill reported they are waiting for the final draft of their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
119
120 Isle La Motte: No report.
121
122 South Hero: No report.
123
124 Sheriff: No report.
125
126 **Other Business – None.**
127
128 **Adjourn - Ray motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.**
129
130 Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.