

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

Grand Isle Mutual Aid Meeting
GI-REMC
December 2, 2024 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department and Virtual

Attendance: Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Ron Kumetz (AVFD), Deb Benson (Treasurer), Brandy Latimer (NH EMD), Brandy's Chief of Staff and assistant, Pat Robinson (SHVFD), Sheriff Ray Allen, Desiree Maltais (GIR), Adam White (GIVFD), Mathieu Gour (Alb. Rescue) Jaqueline Kelley (VDH), Mike Johnson (ILMFC), Peter Clark (C/N FD), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Harry Schoppmann (VEM).

President Mike Murdock chaired the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. followed by roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comment – None.

Changes to Agenda – None.

Minutes

Sheriff Allen motioned for approval of minutes. Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Deb reported three checks were sent totaling \$15,385 to Shelburne Dispatch, Ron Kumetz, and NHVFD. Invoices were approved by email on Nov. 20, 2024. Ending balance of the bank account is \$18,443.16.

Ron motioned to accept Treasurer's Report. Bill seconded. Motion carried.
Peter Clark abstained.

Deb noted that she requested past information from the former Treasurer in October which is needed for the reinstatement of the non-profit status. Adam said he would follow up with former Treasurer during GIVFD's monthly meeting. Deb requested getting the information by the end of the month which is the end of the quarter.

Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee

VEM: Harry reported

- G191 ICS and EOC training in St. Albans on December 11.
- Spring Flood Awareness workshops being held in February.
- ARC shelter fundamentals course will be held in Waterbury this month during the day.
- LEMP changes presentation at next meeting.

Committee Updates (THIRA, LEPC, TPW): Brandy reported the LEPC met but she hasn't seen the minutes. No other meetings were held.

Vermont Department of Health: Jacquie reported:

- The MRC will be applying for a \$10k Operational Readiness grant through the National Association of City and County Health Organizations.
- The Team will be distributing reflective vests and stay bags to families with children and special needs.
- Jacquie will be taking the ARC shelter fundamentals course.

- 50 • Funding will be used to support WIC families and services with go bags and family preparedness
51 kits. Also partnering with CVOEO for purchasing reflective vests homeless population.
52 • Chittenden MRC will be merging with Franklin-Grand Isle MRC for capacity building.
53

54 **Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association**

55 **GICMAA Status Update:** Mike reported that he, Ron and Deb are working with Ann Cadmus from ABT
56 Services on reinstating GICMAA's non-profit status. Waiting on financials from former Treasurer to
57 continue the process.
58

59 **Critical Incident Response Team update:** Sheriff Allen reported that he is scheduling a training with
60 Grand Isle soon. Need to schedule one with SHVFD soon.
61

62 **County Emergency Services Coordinator Position:** Adam led a discussion on the position for Bill Baron
63 who was unavailable tonight. Brandy asked if anyone brought the issue before their boards or
64 departments.

- 65 • Ron will bring it up at Executive Board meeting next Monday.
66 • Bill will bring it up at the Board meeting on Dec. 12th.
67 • Pat brought it up to his Board and they were split only willing if the rest of the County was in favor.
68 • Mike reported that most of the department was not in favor.
69 • Adam and Bill brought it up and most members seemed not to understand the context and
70 assumed the chiefs handled the duties of the position.
71

72 There was a discussion on the duties that were listed and other details of the position. The issue really
73 comes down to funding and oversight. There was consensus that most of the duties could be done
74 during a GICMAA meeting or a meeting with Chiefs. Brandy noted she was thinking of the position as a
75 contracted position as a workaround for insurance. Ultimately, a town would need to administer the
76 SAFER grant.
77

78 Shaun asked if the position would include Rescue? Desiree said she is not sure if there is a benefit for
79 Rescue.
80

81 Desiree suggested the chiefs have a business meeting once a quarter to coordinate the training and
82 equipment maintenance. Brandy suggested the group develop a three-year training and maintenance
83 schedule in similar concept to the state's 3-year plan. There was consensus in favor of the business
84 meeting concept.
85

86 Mike noted GICMAA used to meet monthly and scheduled all these things accordingly. Chiefs could
87 meet virtually.
88

89 Adam added that the remaining chiefs should continue to poll their departments and boards about the
90 position. If the position gets created or not, we will still need this information to coordinate things like
91 having SCBAs serviced and scheduled.
92

93 **App Based Response/Reporting Update :** Adam noted he wanted to close out the discussion. A
94 member of the department looked at App reporting for NFIRS and for apparatus maintenance. The cost
95 was about \$5K-\$7K then another \$4k annual maintenance.
96

97 Pat noted Colchester uses First Due for reporting, truck checks and even time cards. Everyone has it on
98 their trucks and on their phones.
99

100 Adam added the main thing GIVFD wants to look at is going digital for maintenance checks and
101 reporting. ILM wants to have tablet in their trucks as well. It would be helpful for maintenance checks.
102

103 Mike said if all 5 departments want to do this. GICMAA could budget for it however, Alburgh uses Fire
104 Station app that is functional but not super modern. They recently took the truck checks and NFIRS
105 reporting so you can have a cloud server so you can access everything from the side of the road. He
106 noted that they are not seriously invested and would be willing to go with another app.
107

108 Colchester pays \$7k annually for *First Due* which includes responder, NFIRS, preplans, assets and
109 scheduling. They switched from Aladtec to First Due for all time cards. Desiree noted GIR pays about
110 \$4k year for Aladtec and would be interested in switching if County goes to First Due if there is a cost
111 savings.
112

113 Bill noted Isle La Motte fire mostly uses *Active 911* for equipment. Isle La Motte and Alburgh use *I Am*
114 *Responding* for texts and department messaging. *I Am Responding* has a lot of scheduling capabilities
115 that *Active 911* does not have. Most Alburgh VFD members wear pages due to poor cell coverage.
116

117 Adam will work with Patrick on looking on costs for First Due and have some figures for the next
118 meeting.
119

120 **Department and EMD Updates**

121 North Hero: Brandy reported the town is working on their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update. She
122 asked about how departments respond to incidents on the smaller islands like Butler, Woods, Dameas,
123 Burton, Providence, Stave, Fish Bladder, Cedar and Knights Island. Most fire departments with boats will
124 respond depending on proximity and available resources. Rescue will join them as needed.
125

126 St. Albans Town Fire might be able to get to Butler Island quicker if it is on the east side of Butler and
127 Northwest Medical Center is closer than UVM. A member of AmCare would join them as well. There is
128 no mutual aid type agreement with property owners for docking for an emergency. There's a lot of
129 communication that takes place for response logistics.
130

131 Butler has a landing strip on south end but not sure if it still is open or grown in.
132

133 Grand Isle: Adam reported that the Ice Rescue Training will be held February 21 and 22. SCBA fit test
134 this Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Send Adam an email if interested.
135

136 South Hero: Pat reported the fire department will need a new tanker in next 4 years. Also, Jenn Shulz is
137 new South Hero Rescue Chief and Troy Toth is the Assistant Chief. Troy will be coming to the meetings.
138

139 North Hero Fire: Mike reported bond vote pushed back until spring. Waiting for engineering drawings.
140

141 Isle La Motte: Bill looking for someone to who does pump testing and hose testing. Mike noted Garth at
142 Desorcies is dependable but he doesn't do hose testing. Grand Isle uses another vendor for hose
143 testing.
144

145 Alburgh:

- 146 • January 27th - Annual hazmat refresher at 1830 at the Bingo Hall.
 - 147 • Feb 22 and 23 - Alburgh is hosting a National Fire Academy Strategy and Tactics Course on.
 - 148 Application on Fire Academy website. Need 15 people. Only 5 have signed up. Get the word out.
- 149

150 Ron reported that USCBP announced that nearly 40 ports of entry into Canada would be shortening
151 their hours, affecting some crossings in Vermont and northern New York including Alburgh. There is a
152 meeting Thursday morning at 8 a.m. in Alburgh with USCBP to come up with a plan for first responder
153 crossings during the closures.

154
155 Matt reported that he went to a meeting in Chateaugay, NY recently regarding the reduced hours.
156 Local emergency services teams raised their concerns about how these changes could impact their
157 ability to respond to emergencies near the border. Officials from the Chateaugay Volunteer Fire
158 Company very concerned about the reduced availability of emergency medical services from Quebec.
159 The new changes were made as part of a plan by CBP to deploy officers to busier ports of entry in order
160 to more effectively manage resources. towns along the border have no local coverage and rely on
161 international mutual aid. They agreed that department vehicles and department member's private
162 vehicles would be allowed to cross during closures for emergencies. No agreement was made about
163 crossings for trainings. All the departments are going to file a complaint with their federal
164 representatives. Alburgh border is one of the crossings affected by the reduce hours.

165
166 South Hero: No report

167
168 Clarenceville/Noyan: Peter deferred to the previous USCBP discussion.

169
170 Sheriff: Sheriff Allen apologized to anyone who was contacted by a reporter regarding an exchange
171 between a deputy and a motor vehicle operator earlier in the year.

172
173 Sheriff Allen met with Grand Isle School to review active shooter incidents. He requested a list of fire
174 department members (non-rescue) who are interested in critical incident response team training

175
176 **Other Business**

177 Bill participated in TurboDraft demo. He noted it can certainly can live up to its expectations. Pump
178 operators need to understand hydraulics and friction loss for peak operation. The cost is approximately
179 \$8k to get fully invested.

180
181 **Adjourn** - Ron motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

182
183 Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.