

Malden MaldenofCityCity

Massachusetts

Massachusetts

Emergency Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 21st, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Attendance

John Kelley

Laura Vlasuk

Eric Rubin

Louis Matnog

Elaina Savino

Kari-Ann Murphy

Approval Of November Meeting Minutes: John led the approval process for the November meeting minutes, with Eric making a motion to approve and Louis seconding, and all present members voting in favor.

Motion To Approve Minutes: Eric made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, which was seconded by Louis, and all present members voted in favor, confirming the minutes without any issues raised.

Emergency Management Activations and Communications: John reviewed recent emergency management activations, noting no major incidents but mentioning small fires and power outages, with effective communication maintained among team members including Eric, Kari-Ann, and John.

Small Fires and Resident Response: John reported that there were small fires during the previous month, but residents managed the situations themselves, so no significant emergency management activation was required.

Power Outages and Coordination: John described a power outage on Main Street, collaborating with John Prudente and National Grid Electric, and highlighted the importance of maintaining communication with Eric and other team members regarding outages on Pleasant St. and Pearl St.

Group Text For Updates: John emphasized the use of a group text to keep all stakeholders, including Kari- Ann for schools, informed about emergency situations, ensuring everyone has up-to-date information and reducing the need for direct calls to police or fire chiefs.

Process For Future Emergencies: John advised that if any member needs information during an emergency, they should use the group text, as someone in the group is likely to have the answer, and if not, the team will reach out to the appropriate contacts.

Planned Emergency Management Activities And CERT Team Update: John confirmed no planned emergency management activities for the current month, and Louis provided an update on the CERT team, including HR confirmation for Adriano Costa and plans to organize a group meeting.

No Planned Activities: John stated that there are no planned emergency management activities for the current month, but noted that activities could be added if circumstances change.

CERT Team HR Confirmation: Louis reported receiving HR confirmation that a new member passed the required background check, and will reach out to Costa to arrange a meeting.

Upcoming CERT Team Meeting: Louis plans to organize a group meeting for the CERT team, as it has been a long time since the last meeting, and John offered to attend once a date and time are set, suggesting possible venues such as the Senior Center or the usual meeting room.

EMPG Grant Status and Restrictions: Elaina and John discussed the status of the EMPG grant, noting that the application period for the fiscal year 2026 has not yet opened and that the state has imposed new restrictions on eligible items, with further updates pending.

Grant Application Timeline: Malden explained that the EMPG grant for fiscal year 2026 has not yet opened, and the team is awaiting notification from the state to begin the application process.

State-Imposed Restrictions: Elaina shared that during a recent meeting with the state, several items previously requested are no longer eligible for funding under the grant, though specific needs such as a generator may still be considered.

Next Steps For Grant Application: Elaina will provide further details on available funding once the application period opens, and is considering whether to reach out to the state for updates, but for now the process remains on hold.

Member Reports And Department Updates: John facilitated member reports, with Laura confirming completion of a required public health drill, Kari-Ann discussing school radio replacement challenges, and Eric outlining generator testing plans for public facilities.

Public Health Drill Completion: Laura reported that the quarter 2 drill for region 3B was completed as required by the state for public health, fulfilling a key compliance obligation.

School Radio Replacement: Kariann described the need to replace aging school walkie radios, as the current models are no longer manufactured or supported, and the new models do not scan police channels effectively, prompting the team to seek alternative solutions and plan meetings with vendors.

Repurposing Old Radios: Eric inquired about repurposing the old radios for custodial and

facilities staff, and Kariann confirmed that some working units could be used for non-critical functions

Generator Testing In Facilities: Eric outlined plans to test generators in all public buildings, including schools and City Hall, to assess which circuits can be added and ensure essential services like boilers and heat remain operational during outages.

Contingency Planning For Emergency Operations Center: John raised the need for contingency planning in case the police station, which serves as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) becomes unavailable, suggesting City Hall as an alternative and proposing further evaluation with Eric.

Alternative EOC Location: John suggested evaluating City Hall as a backup location for emergency communications if the police station is compromised, referencing recent events in Shrewsbury as a prompt for this planning.

Required Equipment And Services: John and Eric discussed the need to determine what equipment, such as radios and online services, would be necessary to set up an effective EOC at City Hall, and agreed to collaborate on this over the coming months.

Backup Dispatch Arrangements: John explained that in the event of a police station outage, 911 calls would be rerouted to Chelsea and Revere, with staff sent to assist with dispatch, highlighting the importance of having written contingency plans.

Snow Emergency Preparations And Senior Center Operations: Elaina and John discussed preparations for a potential snow emergency, including activation of 311 blue lights and coordination with street sergeants, while Laura inquired about opening the Senior Center, which was deemed unnecessary unless a major outage occurs.

Snow Emergency Protocols: Malden described plans to monitor the upcoming weekend for a possible snow emergency, with procedures in place to activate 311 blue lights and notify the public via the board.

Senior Center Opening Criteria: Laura asked whether the Senior Center would be opened during a snow emergency, and John clarified that it would only be considered if there is a significant power outage or other major event requiring emergency shelter.

Follow-up tasks:

Parking Lot Organization: Move cruisers and unmarked vehicles to one side of the lot on Friday to facilitate cleaning and future parking arrangements. (John)

Grant Application Status: Monitor the opening of the FY2026 EMPG grant and notify the team when applications are allowed, including estimated available funds. (Elaina)

School Walkie Replacement: Organize a meeting to discuss replacement options and obtain quotes for new school walkie services. (Kari-Ann)

Generator Testing: Conduct building-by-building generator tests on a Friday to determine which circuits and services can be added for emergency preparedness. (Eric)

Alternate Planning: Assess City Hall as a potential backup Emergency Operations Center and determine necessary equipment and setup in case the police station becomes unavailable. (John, Eric)