

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015
5:30 PM
BERLIN BOROUGH MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN NJ 08009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.

FLAG SALUTE LED BY THE MAYOR.

Motion to hold special emergency meeting made by council President Lynn Kupchik seconded by Councilman Pearce.

All were in favor.

SUNSHINE NOTICE: Open Public Meeting Act, N. J. S.A. 10:4-6 allows for public emergency meetings to be called when there is a concern regarding the public's safety, therefore the 48 hour notice regarding an emergency meeting does not apply. This meeting will discuss issues only pertaining to the June 23, 2015 storm and all related issues. There may not be any other municipal business discussed. The Courier Post was notified of this meeting via e mail immediately upon the knowledge of the date and time as required by statute. This notice was read by the clerk.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John Armano, Council President Lynn Kupchik, Council members Pearce, Knight, Miller and Badolato were all present at the time of the roll call. Councilman Bilella arrived at 5:45 pm and the mayor acknowledged his presence.

PRESENT ALSO: Chief of Police Michael DeLorenzo, DPW Superintendent Mark Mauger, Emergency Management Coordinator Richard Crain, Captain Lou De Marco from the Berlin Ambulance Association and Administrator Charleen Santora.

- STATUS UPDATE BY DEPARTMENT HEADS FROM STORM.
- Chief DeLorenzo gave his report on the storm of June 23, 2015 stating that all officers were available on that night. There were two traffic lights not functioning at Cross Keys and Park during outage and also at New Freedom and Cross Keys that he received hardly any help from Winslow and Pine Hill who share these lights. His figures in overtime for this storm total \$9000. There was discussion by council members Bilella and Pearce on other roads that were closed and on the potential for a new storm coming questioning any man power issues. Chief DeLorenzo assured them there would be no problem. All commended the police department for the fine job they did during the storm.

- Mark Mauger, DPW Superintendent reported that the night of the storm he had five men come in. He noted that Jefferson Avenue has trees down with wires on it that our men do not touch. He notes that there are several water plants still operating on emergency power sources with sewers operating on gas. He will get a new fuel supply by Sunday. Mark stated the new generator at the municipal building worked excellent and was very efficient in the usage of the fuel. The DPW crew is working hard to clean up the brush but it will take weeks to clean up the entire town per Mark. The hours for the dump have been extended until 5 pm Monday thru Friday until further notice so the residents can take their organics to that location if they so desire. All of this information was given to the Chief of Police so he can place it on Nixle for the public to be notified. It will also be placed on the web site. Councilman Pearce suggests we get a special dumpster at the dump for the residents who want to place their spoiled food in it.

Councilman Bilella has a concern about our long term plans and questions if we should hire more summer help so our regular men don't get burned out due to the overtime they are going to be putting in. Mauger has searched all around for an additional chipper as it is costing \$350 per load to get dumped. Mauger says he will not be able to chip any trees more than 3 ½ inches in diameter but if they are cut up he will pick them up at a later time.

Councilman Badolato is concerned about the storm drains being blocked with debris. Mauger said he would not be able to do storm drains with his work load at this point. He will keep all expenses being incurred separate from this storm in the event we can report to FEMA. All borough services are continuing as scheduled. It was discussed that the senior bus for the upcoming week be suspended two days out of the three for more man power. Senior Citizen Joan Rocco who was present at the meeting would advise the seniors of this.

- Emergency Management Coordinator Richard Crain. Coordinator Crain said he was at work when the storm of June 23 hit Berlin. He said the command center was set up at the fire house noting that our DPW who worked the storm was also at the command center for their assistance. He stated 16 houses reported trees falling into them, 10 houses had complete storm damage and one house has to be condemned it was damaged so severely. FEMA may be in Berlin tomorrow to assess the damages but as of this meeting, no declaration of a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor for the borough to get any assistance. He states the town is recovering but it is a process. He feels Atlantic City Electric is doing the best they can do in regards to this type of storm. In regards to a cooling station that the county has reported is the Berlin Ambulance Hall on Park Avenue in the Borough. He states that personnel is needed for anyone who may wish to use the cooling facility and most recently the Berlin Ambulance did not have any personnel to assist when the facility was requested. Councilman Pearce wanted to go on the record that he will call upon any and all state representatives for what ever we need, no questions asked, to do regarding this storm. He will even fill out

the forms if necessary. Crain notes that a FEMA representative will fill out all forms as they find it easier. Councilman Pearce is requesting that he be advised when the FEMA representative comes to Berlin. Crain suggests that the council contact their state representatives for their support in getting Berlin assistance.

At this time a motion was made by Councilman Bilella seconded by Councilman Pearce to have the clerk/administrator draft a resolution asking Governor Christie to declare the Borough of Berlin in a state of emergency. All were in favor.

Councilman Bilella stated he was at the Command Center along with Councilman Pearce and all at the command center worked together regarding the storm efforts. It was discussed again about the upcoming storm coming this week and what plans are in effect, even if the storm is not as large noting that the fire department, police, ambulance and DPW are always available. He mentioned that Fire Chief Behnke did an outstanding job, as all of council agreed taking hundreds of calls during the storm. He also stated that the fire department lost power and there is a need to look into a generator in the future so the men are more equipped. The fire department has a small generator that needs to be upgraded. Councilman Pearce would like to discuss this generator at the next caucus meeting and also to move Emergency Management downstairs in the municipal building allowing them a conference area and two TV's as Crain states that most of the information they get during, before and after a storm is gotten from the TV media.

There were 85 fire calls at midnight at the night of the storm and a duty crew ran the night of storm for fires. He reported that the roof at the fire department was also damaged.

At this time the mayor noted that an outstanding job was done by all.

EMS, Captain Lou DeMarco reported for the ambulance stating he had two crews on until midnight the night of the storm and in a 24 hour period the ambulance had nine calls and assisted in some mutual aide. He was at the command post also the night of the storm. He explained the confusion in regards to the cooling station and that a woman with three children had called for the usage but he did not have anyone available to stay with them. The woman, however, never did call back he noted. He advised the council that his facility does not have a generator so if it is a cooling station, it will not work if there is a power outage. Arrangements also have to be made for someone to stay with anyone who uses the center. The administrator will contact a source and see if they will work with the ambulance center if and when this may be needed or at least until we get a permanent cooling station. DeMarco suggested to the governing body to possibly reach out to Virtua Hospital to see if they would consider being cooling station for the borough for the future. The council all agreed this was a good idea and they will pursue the idea.

Mayor Armano gave an up date he had from Atlantic City Electric noting they consider this storm of June 23, 2015 to be the worse than Hurricane Sandy. He reported from AC electric that four sub stations were out and they are the only means of supplying electric but adding that all electric to residents should be restored by Saturday night.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Dave Angeline, 20 New Freedom Road, Berlin reports that there are 10 to 12 trees down in the creek at Park and Glenview.

John Mitchard, 10 Canyon Drive, Berlin suggests that we place information on other means than the web because the computers are down for a lot of people. Chief DeLorenzo will place information on Nixel and it will also be put on the web page for when everyone does get back electric.

Betty Velie, 230 Roosevelt Blvd., Berlin thanks everyone for the good job that is being done due to this storm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kupchik seconded by Miller. All were in favor.

Submitted,

Charleen Santora, Borough Clerk
RMC

Motion to adjourn: _____. All in favor.

 Charleen Santora mB

Charleen Santora, RMC, Borough Clerk