

TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov



Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

September 8, 2020

6:00 PM

14 PARK PLACE
TOWN HALL, ADMINISTRATION
VERNON, CT

VIRTUAL INFORMATION: CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 867 7429 0114 Password: 0908

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 OCT - 1 PM 5:19

The September 8, 2020 meeting of the Risk Management Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman John Morissette at 6:03PM. The following Risk Management Members were in attendance Don Schubert, Bill Gilson, Larry Rodriguez, as well as Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator; Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator, and Recording Secretary Diane Wheelock. Absent: Thomasina Russell. Chairman Morissette called for any public participants wishing to comment. No participants were on the call.

John Morissette, Chairman began the meeting by acknowledging the Town of Vernon efforts on behalf of our residents to take care of the storm related issues and calling Eversource to the carpet for their poor response. Michael Purcaro thanked Chairman Morissette for his kind words. Since Storm Alfred in 2011 and the changes that were made as a result of working with Eversource setting out plans and procedures we had a good working relationship. The plans in place were working. The best part of the plan was developing and assigning a "Community Liaison" to each town. This position/person was designed to become familiar with the town's they serve as well as the landscape and players they would interact with during such an event. This plan worked and Eversource chose to abandon it and replace these individuals with other Eversource employees not experienced with the "liaison" role. No reason was given for this change. Eversource's performance was an "epic failure" during this storm and we are responding.. The Town has sent a letter to Eversource requesting reimbursement of costs we incurred because of their failure. The Town of Vernon has also filed for Intervenor Status with PURA to be part of the investigative process. We will keep Risk Management as things progress.

Chairman Morissette opened the floor up for questions from Committee members. Bill Gilson: Why did Eversource change their "Community Liaison Program"? Mr. Purcaro replied that there was no reason given. Larry Rodriguez: Why Intervenor status and not Party status? Mr. Purcaro replied that the Town of Vernon felt that Intervenor Status was best in terms of our independence to act on our own. Chairman Morissette also asked if there was anything the Risk Management Advisory Committee could do to assist. Mr. Purcaro responded that it would be helpful to the Town if Risk Management would assist at the data evaluation stage and offering the right questions of PURA. The Town has officially filed and has been approved.

In terms of our COVID response we are under two Emergency Declarations, our response to this pandemic is all risk management related. The Town of Vernon never closed it's doors. We simply worked to mitigate any risk for our employees by thinking outside the box with functions like "drive thru voting", "drive thru testing", installing plexiglass areas and improving air systems. Presently, we are working on opening our Library, Senior Center and allowing more individuals to come into Town Hall and other offices.

Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator moved on to share that the Town was actively developing a Travel Order Policy and Social Media Policy to be presented before the Town Council soon. The Town has also taken a hard look at self-insurance, but with the move from Connecticare to Cigna yielded savings this time, however in 2021 we will revisit self insurance again.

Dawn Maselek, also shared that Human Resources has been busy trying to fill vacant positions: Civil Engineer, Social Service Director, four Department of Public Works and returning Library and Senior Center Staff.

Our next meeting will be in December. Bill Gilson moved adjournment at 6:50 PM seconded by Don Schubert.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Wheelock
Recording Secretary