

VILLAGE OF EAGLE SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL
BOARD MEETING

Following the aftermath of the tornado of June 21st, President Spurrell called the special informational Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Mealy confirmed Open Meeting Law requirements. Roll was taken: Rice, Block, Royston, Scheff, Greenberg, Couch, and Spurrell all were present. Also in attendance were a number of residents, members of the media, and representatives of local and county agencies.

President Spurrell began by apologizing to the residents and to Board members for not getting information to them earlier. He explained that there is still help out there and an earlier meeting would not have been as beneficial. Spurrell then addressed some of the concerns that were being heard:

Concern #1 - Presence at municipal office. Phone lines were down and it was a balancing act in the office. Office personnel were called in Wednesday afternoon.

Concern #2 - Why Kettle Moraine Days? It was such an emotional week and people needed both mental and physical relief. This can be done by communicating with others about your loss and/or their loss. Both parties benefit.

Concern #3 – T-Shirt fundraiser. It was the committee’s decision for the wording on the T-shirt and it can be interpreted in a number of ways. It was actually very profitable and overall the community liked the fundraiser.

Concern #4 – Barricades. The barricades on South Street and various entrances to the two (2) subdivisions (Fields of Eagle and County Meadows) were necessary for safety precautions. Until Wednesday, WE Energies had not given the all clear. It also turned away gawkers and maintained control. Appreciation was expressed to all residents for their tolerance.

Concern #5 – Siren. The siren was tested on the Wednesday before the tornado hit and the test was successful. Prior tests done in April – May were unsuccessful due to a battery issue. The company has done an investigation and found a mechanical failure which may have been avoided had a preventative maintenance program been established. Spurrell explained that the siren is intended for outdoor use only, a 1-mile circular radius. He indicated he was not trying to minimize the issue, but stated that because of the timing, it may not have even been heard. The positive aspect is that nobody was seriously hurt. The Board will address the siren issue at their regular July meeting.

Spurrell then stated that there is misinformation going around in terms of available Federal and/or State funding for those affected. In terms of Federal funding there is no federal aid. In order to qualify, \$6.5 million dollars in damage to public property had to have occurred. Also, if an individual has homeowners insurance you automatically are exempt from aid. Therefore, homeowners will need to recover any damages through their individual insurance policies. At the State level, the notion that each resident will receive \$7,500 is also incorrect. The Village did receive \$7,500, however that aid has already been given to the Red Cross and the money was used to purchase roof tarps.

The volunteers, (Red Cross and Salvation Army) have moved on, however there is still help. All information relating to the recovery process will be posted on the Village website. The DPW is still here and will continue to pick up brush. While there is no timeline, eventually it all will be picked up. Residents were asked to please be patient. The tornado was a quick event; recovery is a very long event. After the instance is over, it is not over.

The DNR has granted the Village to use the senior housing site for burning. Residents were told not use this site. The compost site will remain open 24/7 for branches/brush. No garbage.

John’s Disposal has been going through the Village picking up waste and construction materials which they normally do not do. Residents were asked to keep everything in manageable piles, as they are

picking up all materials by hand. They will spend approximately 10 minutes per household and will come back if they can't take it all at one time. Residents were also told to call John's if they are missing their garbage can or if they find an extra one, as the containers do have serial numbers on them. That way, John's will be able to locate where they belong.

Spurrell indicated that there are a number of resources available: Eagle Elementary School is offering child care and counseling services. Brooklife Church in Mukwonago has received donations of very nice clothing and shoes for the entire family. Several pick-up dates and times are available. People can also donate clothes. These can be dropped off at the Westbury Bank Community Room, located across Hwy 83 from Walmart. Phantom Lake is donating 2 weeks of day camp. Another resource is the Eagle Nest Gift Box. Residents can call 211 for a lot of other information. On Tuesday, July 6th, Culvers in Mukwonago will be donating 25% of their total sales. These proceeds will be placed in the "Eagle Disaster Relief Fund" which will be set up at the Chase Bank in Eagle. Due to limited space, monetary donations are preferred. Gary Payne also indicated that the Lions Club has also received a grant which can be used by eligible residents to purchase miscellaneous items. Residents were told to call or stop in at the Village office if they have any questions or need additional information.

In closing, Spurrell told residents to be cautious with contractors etc. If residents encounter problems with their insurance company, they were told to contact the Insurance Commission's office at the State level. Again they can contact the village office for further details. Spurrell also told residents to continue helping their neighbors, or if they need help to call the Village office. Also, if they have issues with him, to please let him know. He then thanked representatives of the various service agencies and Waukesha County. Spurrell said he was proud to be here in Eagle and proud to serve the community. He requested that if residents were going to speak, to keep their concerns legitimate; keep criticism and praises until after the meeting.

Police Chief Ehlers gave a rundown of the series of events that occurred right before and immediately following the tornado. A house to house check was done by Officer Bruckner as well as the fire department. Mutual aid arrived within 45 minutes with 50 law enforcement officers. At 10:15 p.m. the Municipal Building was determined to be the safety shelter and buses were brought in. Residents were told to contact him via phone or email if they had any criticism. He also commented on the unification of the Village during and after the disaster.

Fire Chief Heim though himself personally affected by the tornado, had the opportunity to walk thru the neighborhoods. He commented that there were trucks from 17 departments throughout the State and 108 personnel. He also stated that some of the decisions had to be made. The department will continue to be there for residents. Finally, he indicated that Kettle Moraine Days was a much needed release and it was very profitable.

A number of residents then aired their comments and/or concerns that ranged from thanking various individuals, neighbors, departments and various organizations etc. to those who were not very pleased with how the situation was handled. During the discussion, it was made known that Trees on the Move has agreed to take donated trees from individuals in Waukesha and Milwaukee County and move them to residents who lost trees. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available in the Village office.

A motion was made by Greenberg to adjourn; Block seconded. President Spurrell adjourned the special informational meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Shirley Mealy
Clerk/Treasurer