
From: Smith, Paul (GOV)
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Murray, David (GOV)
Subject: Fwd: Flint News Article and Update
Attachments: image003.png; ATT00001.htm; 12 11 15 City of Flint SOP.PDF; ATT00002.htm

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kelenske, Chris (MSP)" <KelenskeC@michigan.gov>
Date: December 18, 2015 at 11:27:34 AM EST
To: "Etue, Kriste (MSP)" <EtueK@michigan.gov>, "Gorski, Gary (MSP)" <GorskiG@michigan.gov>, "Smith, Paul (GOV)" <SmithP29@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Katarsky, Anthony (MSP)" <KatarskyA@michigan.gov>
Subject: Flint News Article and Update

Note the below article on the Flint water issue. They are starting to follow the emergency management process to include implementing their Support Emergency Operations Plan (Flint's is attached). The County has an Emergency Operations Plan that Flint is to support. Opening an EOC is key for coordination and that has been done at the city level (at least to some degree but probably not at the staffing level it needs to be at this time).

In a letter to Weaver Thursday, Dec. 17, Curtis says county guidelines and state law call for him to consult with the county's emergency management coordinator -- Sheriff Robert Pickell -- and Michigan State Police once he has been given the declaration.

"Upon such consultation and review of the city's declaration of emergency and upon determining that the situation is beyond the capabilities of the county to handle, I as the county board chair, may then declare a state of emergency and request assistance from the state of Michigan and a governor's declaration," Curtis' letter says.

We are working to make sure we have all the information needed to ensure the Mayor and County Commissioner understand the limitations of the Emergency Management Act and Stafford Act. They may find that the energy they are spending hoping for a federal emergency declaration may be better spent looking to HUD or EPA for assistance. A better job is needed to manage expectations which I will work with others on that. We will also make sure they understand what information we would need before we look at a Governor or Presidential declaration. They cannot just ask for a Governor's declaration ... they need to provide us information as to why they need it and what they (Flint and the County) have done thus far.

As outlined in the Michigan Emergency Management Plan, Local EM programs must ensure that local disaster relief forces are utilized to the maximum extent possible, including the use of local contractors, activation of mutual aid and other standing agreements, and use of nearby resources. State disaster assistance is used to supplement local efforts and resources, and to help relieve extraordinary burden. It is NOT to be used for simple budgetary relief or to relieve hardship. FEMA's first questions will be, "What is it (specifically) they need that they cannot get from others."

Genesee County chairman says he can send Flint disaster request to governor

Ron Fonger

MLive

12.18.15

(This story has been updated with comment from Flint ayor Karen Weaver.)

FLINT, MI -- Genesee County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jamie Curtis says he is authorized to forward Flint's request for a disaster declaration to the governor and plans to meet with Mayor Karen Weaver about it next week.

In a letter to Weaver Thursday, Dec. 17, Curtis says county guidelines and state law call for him to consult with the county's emergency management coordinator -- Sheriff Robert Pickell -- and Michigan State Police once he has been given the declaration.

"Upon such consultation and review of the city's declaration of emergency and upon determining that the situation is beyond the capabilities of the county to handle, I as the the county board chair, may then declare a state of emergency and request assistance from the state of Michigan and a governor's declaration," Curtis' letter says.

Curtis declined to comment further on the matter, but he chairman's letter says he will "do whatever I can ... to assist the city of Flint as it continues to struggle with its emergency water situation."

Weaver said she plans to meet with Curtis and other emergency management officials Monday, Dec. 21, to work on the request.

Earlier this week, Curtis said he did not plan to call a special meeting of the county Board of Commissioners to consider the disaster request but would add the issue to the agenda of the county board at its next meeting on Jan. 4.

The mayor has said state and federal funds are needed to respond to health problems caused by lead in drinking water here and to replace thousands of lead service lines in the city.

Weaver's declaration, read to the City Council Monday, Dec. 14, did not include an estimate of damages suffered by the city and residents.

To support the request for disaster relief, the city also announced that it has enacted its "Support Emergency Operations Plan" and opened an "Emergency Operations Center."

Sean Kammer, assistant to the city administrator, said the center is available to answer questions from residents and will be used to coordinate relief efforts.

The EOC is located in Flint Fire Station 1, 310 E. Fifth St., and the center can be reached by calling 810-237-6888, extension 5005 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/12/genesee_county_board_chair_say.html#incart_m-rpt-2

Chris