

Minutes
COVID-19 Response Team
Video Conferencing
Thursday, April 9, 2020
7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief; Becky Burich, Hoyt Lakes City Clerk; Jeff Jacobson, Biwabik City Administrator; Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Amanda Gross, Mesabi East School Board; Jodi Knaus, Town of White Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding local EMS and Fire Departments. Hoyt Lakes EMS will work with the East Range Police Department on coordination of services. Hoyt Lakes and Biwabik EMS have each received advanced grants in various amounts to assist with covering costs.

Concerns have been brought up on Facebook regarding playground equipment. Signs have been posted at several locations stating to maintain social distancing. Twin Lakes complex is closed completely. The Mesabi East Campus is closed. It would be very difficult to enforce closure of the public parks; very few are fenced.

Tim Soular indicated it has been a quiet week. Northern Pines continues to sever the community very well. Across the Range there has been an increase in DUI, domestic, and psych calls. St. Louis County mental health services are struggling to keep up with the shift in business delivery.

Becky Burich believes staggering shifts is working well. The Hoyt Lakes EMS received \$51,800 in grant monies. There have been some questions regarding utility billing of closed businesses. Penalties have been waived and delinquent shut offs are not taking place, but businesses are inquiring if they can not be billed for months they are closed by the governor. Discussion took place, and the communities are still providing the service. Businesses can request their water to be shut off for a reduced cost (water shut off rates). Future planning will include discussion on programs for businesses to pay past due utilities.

Jeff Jacobson stated the Biwabik EMS received \$11,000 in grant monies. He indicated the Local Board of Appeal went very well via Zoom. There are general concerns about EMS and FD calls; a chiefs meeting should provide information and guidance.

Becky Lammi informed the team the Aurora staff seem to be getting into a routine with staggering shifts. The group discussed the specifics of staff schedules for the departments.

Jodi Knaus indicated staggering shifts is going well; work is piling up.

Amanda Gross said most bumps in the road with distance learning have been smoothed out. The kids are on spring break now. The Mesabi East grounds, fields, and playgrounds are closed to the public. There are no spring sports, and no organized activities, but many coaches are sending out individual plans. They are applying for federal funds to pay for the hot spots.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. This is a closed meeting.