

This meeting was neither video taped or audio recorded

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MONDAY, 16 SEPTMEBER 2013, 2:00 PM

TOWN HALL HEARINGS ROOM

Chairmen of the board of selectmen Dean V. Cronin convened a meeting of selectmen, fire chief Antione Roderick Jr and chief of police Robert McDonald, And national grid liaison Ann Malley-Laneau, in the hearings room of town hall at 2:00 pm. Ms. Malley-Laneau {telephone (508)-922-7420} functions in the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) municipal room in the event of a disaster. She explained that national grid Hopedale office serves 28 communities in Massachusetts, dispatching emergency equipment from Somerset for this area.

Chief Roderick stated that national grid's program of providing a field liaison to distressed towns in a disaster to coordinate restoration of downed electricity does not work. The liaison is always very busy, during a disaster, and when a town calls, there is no response; there are no results.

Ms. Malley-Laneau stated national grid will try a "zone approach". Under this approach there will be one line crew and one tree crew to cover a three town zone. The immediate objective will be "cut and clear", by which is meant, cut downed debris and clear away downed wires, restore power later.

The fire chief opined that three towns are too big of a zone for one line crew and one tree crew.

Ms. Malley-Laneau explained the prioritization of power restoration in a disaster. Only hospitals are "tier one". All other facilities rank behind hospitals in priority of disaster relief power restoration. Nursing homes are second priority, as are pumps for the wells of the water district, and water district headquarters and other similar facilities are third priority. The fire chief has a table that shows the priority of restoration given to each facility in town.

In answer to a question by Chief MacDonald Ms. Malley-Laneau states that Rehoboth is at the end of this areas transmission line. Their for because restoration begins in urban areas with a line inspection that fans out to the ends of transmission line, to identify places of service breaks before work can commence to repair them, it takes five or six hours to restore electricity to west Dighton and Rehoboth every time there is a storm, and several days to restore power if it is a large storm. She said that the only answer is that the whole "feeder" line must be patrolled continually.

Chief Roderick said "we don't see the results". Selectmen Menges asked how national grid became aware that an area had sustained a power outage. Ms. Malley-Laneau stated that customers report downed lines. Selectman Menges stated that it was ridiculous for national grid to depend upon

the possibility that a customer would not be electrocuted checking for downed lines, instead of having company professionals identify outages and sources of service interruption.

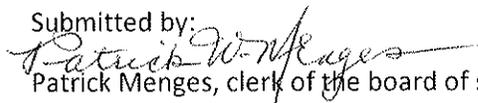
Dighton has no electrical transmission substation, Ms. Malley-Laneau said, and has to wait until national grid crews fan out from the sub station to clear "feeder" to outlying areas.

Chief Roderick said that it would help if national grid assimilated information from the town to expedite its damaged assessment process in an emergency.

The fire chief produced a map showing where the main feeders come into town. He mentioned that national grid needs to remediate the visibility hazard caused by double utility poles at the corner of county and main streets. He said that that was "a very dangerous corner." Ms. Malley-Laneau said, it was an issue of ball in court, by which she meant that each of the several utilities (electric light, telephone, television) with wires on the poles, must transfer their cables from the old pole to the new pole, before the old pole can be removed, whenever a new pole is installed. She asked chief Rodrick, "Who is your cable provider here?" Chief Roderick responded, "Comcast". The fire Chief said that he would update the contact list for national grid. (The clerk's notes contain a reference "email is ok")

The meeting was adjourned without day at 2:41pm.

Submitted by:


Patrick Menges, clerk of the board of selectmen

Mark Pritchard, Aide