

CITY OF LINCOLN CITY

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING

October 5, 2020, 1:00 PM

The final minutes for this meeting are supplemented by an electronic recording of the meeting, which may be viewed online at www.lincolncity.org under the tab "Agendas, Packets and Videos". The staff reports, resolutions, ordinances and other documents related to this meeting are also available at the same location. This meeting is rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4. (See Channel 4 guide on the hour at <http://www2.lincolncity.org/program-guide/>).

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 26, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dick Anderson	Mayor	Present	1:00 PM
Judy Casper	Councilor Ward 3	Present	1:00 PM
Diana Hinton	Councilor Ward 1	Present	1:00 PM
Riley Hoagland	Councilor Ward 2	Late	1:07 PM
Rick Mark	Councilor Ward 3	Present	1:00 PM
Mitch Parsons	Councilor Ward 1	Present	1:00 PM

Staff present: Ken Murphy, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Jerry Palmer, Chief of Police; Ron Chandler, City Manager; Richard Townsend, Interim Planning Director; Richard Appicello, City Attorney; Jeanne Sprague, Parks and Recreation Director; David Twigg, I.T. Support Specialist.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Echo Mountain Complex Emergency Debriefing

Mayor Anderson said this work session will provide a preliminary assessment of the Echo Mountain Fire Complex event and the efficiency of the emergency response. Council will be given an opportunity to comment, and public comments received will be presented.

Chief Palmer said that 6 City employees had lost their homes during the fire. 30 City Employees are Otis residents who were displaced for the longer evacuation period. 40 employees were evacuated in total; 5 employees remained at work while their families evacuated. Chief Palmer asked Council to be proud of

City employees. Chief Palmer said that a couple of staff members in Dispatch did not know if they had lost their property; however, they stayed on the job and focused on helping others. Chief Palmer said that from September 8 through September 11, there were 4,244 calls made to the Lincoln City Police Department. 372 of those were 911 calls. During the same time period in 2019, there were 75 911 calls made, and 380 other calls.

Chief Palmer said there is lots of disinformation being spread about this multi-jurisdictional event, which had other factors beyond City control, like road closures. Chief Palmer hopes that the information presented today will allow Council to make decisions about where resources should be focused in the future. Chief Palmer noted that there was no loss of life and no missing persons have been reported as a result of this emergency, and there weren't any traffic crashes during the evacuation.

Mr. Murphy gave an overview of citizen comments. Mr. Murphy said that reported problems included:

Evacuation Issues: No-one was directing traffic. 2 road projects were being undertaken at the same time on East Devils Lake Rd and West Devils Lake Rd;

Communications: sporadic Lincoln County Alerts; unclear information; no radio communications; residents didn't know how what frequency to use to access P.D. scanners; no power led to no internet access, no internet based phone service, and no email access. Vacation Rental Dwelling guests were not informed timely about the emergency and need to evacuate; cell service was down; broadband communications were shut down;

Fire suppression: There were no airplanes to deploy fire retardant;

Utilities: The hospital didn't have a power generator; natural gas was turned off without notice.

Mr. Murphy said that residents offered the following comments:

Clear and frequent communications;

Don't rely on Lincoln County to provide information;

More visible leaders;

Email communications are not adequate;

Develop a plan for Vacation Rental Dwelling education;

Develop workable channels of communication;

Use Social Media;

Retrofit the tsunami alert systems to cover wildfire alerts;

Widen Highway 101;

Encourage people to sign up for Lincoln Alerts;

Work with neighborhoods to find out what communication methods work best;

Deploy trained staff in traffic disaster quickly;

Make both lanes on Logan Road outbound;

Limit guest parking for Vacation Rentals;

Emergency Preparedness information and evacuation information must be required and posted in Vacation Rentals; ensure that guests read and sign before booking that they understand safety instructions and agree to abide by them. Make sure vacation rental properties have safety equipment such as flashlights;

All radio stations should broadcast emergency alerts;

Police should make more noise if they are alerting neighborhoods to "Go Now";

Lincoln Alerts should text evacuation notices to Level 1 residents and should change their evacuation sites much earlier;

Motels should be evacuated in zones, not all at once. In this disaster motels closer to the ocean were at far less risk than those located near woodlands;

ODOT should factor in major holidays, drought conditions, and wildfire danger before starting major projects;

A bypass for Lincoln City to reduce congestion;

A one way traffic evacuation plan;

Conduct more emergency preparation seminars in the fall. Make brochures and flyers available to the public.

Mr. Murphy said these comments would be posted in full on the City website.

Mr. Murphy said that, during any disaster, people, including City employees, need to think of their families first. Mr. Murphy said that, in his experience, people working in an Emergency Operations Center who don't know if their family is OK might not be 100% effective at work. Communications are always tricky, but in a disaster scenario like this, we are going to have some issues that are not within City control. Cell phone systems can be brought down by heavy traffic, never mind emergency situations. With so many cell providers it's hard to analyze who had the best coverage and service during the emergency. Even on a sunny day in Lincoln City, the Police Department cannot communicate in every inch of Lincoln City. The City is working on this.

Mr. Murphy discussed communications. They were hectic, and sporadic. The County were in as much of a crisis as everyone else, with people from all agencies and departments working to evacuate people from Kimberling Mountain and Echo Mountain. Lincoln City Police helped with the initial evacuation process in these unincorporated areas.

The City did not put out much information on its website at first. Mr. Murphy said the City's website is on an old platform that requires significant effort to update. You need a computer to update it, and a dedicated person to do the updates. Mr. Murphy said the City does not necessarily have a dedicated person to watch all City social media sites in Lincoln City. Explore Lincoln City has one person that monitors social media relating to tourism in Lincoln City. Mr. Murphy said that, during an emergency, the need to monitor social media sites is a 24 hour job, so at least 2 staff would be needed for day and night shift operations.

Mr. Murphy said that the City has now launched a Facebook page. The Police Department, Emergency Preparedness Department, Library, Parks and Recreation, and Explore Lincoln City also have Facebook pages. Explore Lincoln City also has Instagram and Twitter. These are lots of potential sources of information, but it's not easy to keep them all up-to-date during an event unless we have the resources.

Mr. Murphy said that media releases might not be a great help in these situations. Local newspapers publish on certain days of the week, and while they publish online news stories, access to those is dependent on power and internet.

Mr. Murphy said AM radio would be a possibility for communications. KBCH and KNPT / The Wave are local options, with KBCH being located in Lincoln City. KBCH is only manned at certain times.

Mr. Murphy said that amateur radio volunteers can communicate reliably during emergency situations, but the City would have to ensure that good information gets broadcast. Mr. Murphy said that satellite phones would not have worked well during this emergency due to the heavy clouds and smoke. While the City has a trailer that can boost the signal strength of these phones, that would only have helped to a point.

Mr. Murphy said that he is yet to get a report from the County regarding how many people were contacted and how many people responded to Lincoln Alerts. These communications were likely hampered by internet and phone service issues.

Mr. Murphy said that the City has radio systems for the Police Department, Public Works Department, and Parks Department.

Mr. Murphy tried to send information to City employees via Lincoln Alerts, and that message didn't go out successfully. Mr. Murphy noted that Lincoln Alerts relies on internet and power to transmit messages. It's not a 100% solution.

Mr. Murphy said that in the first stage of an emergency, communications tend to be hectic. Mr. Murphy recommends establishing a frequent schedule of communication alerts. Social media, radio, and message reader boards are all useful sources.

Mr. Murphy discussed Emergency Operations Center (EOC) policy groups. Mr. Murphy believes the City should have had a representative in the County EOC. This representative needs to be trained on handling EOC basics.

Mr. Murphy suggested that Mayor Anderson talk with Commissioner Kaety Jacobsen to see if Lincoln City should be a part of the County EOC policy group. Mr. Murphy observed that Lincoln City was extremely close to this disaster and many people think Otis is a part of Lincoln City.

Mr. Murphy said the City needs a crisis communication plan. Mr. Murphy said we should develop a plan regarding what we want to create and delegate a group of people for these communications. Mr. Murphy recommends a joint information center that deals with social media and handles communication inputs and outputs. Training on this subject is available. Mr. Murphy thinks this need could be handled right away.

Mr. Murphy discussed local radio station KBCH. It is privately owned, and doesn't have a generator. Mr. Murphy said he was in contact with KBCH frequently during his first 6 months as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator asking if they would like City assistance in procuring a generator and also asking them if they would consider moving location to be out of the tsunami inundation zone. KBCH has not responded to Mr. Murphy. Mr. Murphy will continue to work on contacting KBCH, and is willing to make contact with Newport area AM radio stations.

The City's tsunami sirens are owned by North Lincoln Fire and Rescue (NLFR). They are older sirens that have either been purchased or donated to NLFR from other agencies, such as the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant that was outside of Portland. They are a patchwork of systems that produce a single audible tone. City residents are familiar with the tsunami sirens from weekly testing. If the City wanted to use these sirens for other emergency notifications, the community would need to be educated on how they were being used to avoid confusion and misinformation. Mr. Murphy noted that the City's tourist population would not know how to respond to a tsunami siren being used for a fire evacuation.

The City could have stood up an EOC during this event. Many City employees would not have been available to staff the EOC due to the evacuation orders. Also, taking staff to the EOC takes staff away from their regular duties. Mr. Murphy noted that the City does not have enough staff to run its EOC 24 hours a day. Mr. Murphy suggests that, if a similar event happens again in the area with another agency leading the emergency response, the City take a graduated, phased-in approach to opening its own EOC. It takes 30 employees to run the EOC for each shift.

Mr. Murphy said there can never be enough training on how to run an EOC. He will continue consistently training staff on these operations, making sure to obtain departmental buy in. Mr. Murphy recommended the Policy Group- the City Council and City Manager- join these training sessions.

Mr. Murphy noted that the EOC was short of laptops during this emergency due to COVID-19. In March, many City employees started working from home and the new EOC laptops that were purchased were provided to these employees for remote access purposes. Mr. Murphy noted we need additional laptops for EOC purposes. Mr. Murphy noted the EOC needs Whiteboards, GIS capability, and signage. Further, staff may need to sleep at the EOC and so the EOC needs to have food and sleeping equipment available.

Mr. Murphy analyzed the evacuation issues. The main problem is the limited road network in the area. Area roads are managed by different groups- ODOT (Hwy 101), Lincoln County, and Lincoln City. The City needs to work with other agencies in the area to develop a better plan to use roads. For example, Highway 229 to Siletz was not used during this emergency. There was no traffic control, and the City doesn't have enough staff currently trained in providing traffic control. Road and traffic control issues will need to be worked through with other agencies.

Mr. Murphy said evacuation decisions were made by the Incident Commander (North Lincoln Fire and Rescue). These decisions were relayed to Lincoln County and the County proceeded with issuing evacuation orders. Mr. Murphy noted it would have been very helpful to have a City employee in the County EOC to get information to the City as quickly as possible.

Mr. Murphy said more training should be provided on the differences between evacuation levels 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Murphy noted people evacuated Lincoln City from areas that were at a level 1 evacuation level.

Mr. Murphy said that the return to the area was handled by North Lincoln Fire and Rescue. They based their decisions on fire conditions and risk.

Training and preparation for emergencies is always helpful. You cannot train employees and the public enough. Mr. Murphy noted that getting interest in emergency training is difficult. Mr. Murphy said he's tried to offer classes to businesses and to the public but he hasn't received favorable results. Now, there will be a lot of interest. Mr. Murphy wants to take advantage of this interest and wants to keep interest high even when nothing is going on from an emergency perspective. Mr. Murphy sees training and information as a form of an insurance policy. He noted that COVID-19 makes training more challenging; however, small classes and online information can be provided. Mr. Murphy recommends offering separate training sessions for the general public and local businesses.

Mr. Murphy discussed the need for local businesses and individuals to obtain generators. Mr. Murphy would like to educate local businesses about the value of a generator, and help them find sources of grant funding to purchase one. Mr. Murphy noted that generators allowed McKay's Market to stay up and running, and Carson Oil also could provide gasoline. Mr. Murphy thinks every family should have a small generator if they can afford one.

Mr. Murphy said that he will continue working on City preparedness. There's lots to reflect on after this event- radio systems, communications systems, and the City hasn't yet finished the disaster caches due to COVID-19. Mr. Murphy wants to get the caches completed and ready-to-go.

Mr. Murphy said he will provide extra information to Council upon request and direction. He cautioned Council that some of the issues aren't overnight fixes and some will cost money.

Mayor Anderson asked what happens next? Does a report get forwarded to Lincoln County? Will this be a public document?

Mr. Murphy said there was no requirement to send the County a report; however, he thinks it would be helpful to do so. Mr. Murphy would like to request a City staff member get added to the County EOC Policy Group. Further, Mr. Murphy said he would like to contact the County to see if Lincoln City can get permission to send out Lincoln Alerts to the whole County. Mr. Murphy noted that Newport might be the hub of a future disaster and then Lincoln Alerts wouldn't work at all.

Chief Palmer said he was talking with Sheriff Landers about what worked and what didn't work. Chief Palmer said that the County and City plan to have a joint debrief in a couple of weeks. Chief Palmer said the County should produce a report on this disaster as well.

Mayor Anderson asked what Mr. Murphy and Chief Palmer needed from Council? Mr. Murphy asked Council if they had observations and items he had missed in his summary. Also, Mr. Murphy wanted Council to provide direction on what to do first. Chief Palmer concurred with Mr. Murphy, asking Council to provide direction to allow for the most effective use of time and money towards improving emergency preparedness.

Councilor Casper said she had taken CERT classes with Mayor Anderson just prior to the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and potential local tsunami. In March 2011 Councilor Casper was evacuated from Nelscott to Taft High School. Councilor Casper said the community learned a lot about how to evacuate people and pets during this event. Councilor Casper suggested doing evacuation drills, focusing on segments of the City.

Councilor Mark asked about utilizing radio stations. Could there be a City of Lincoln City radio station, with a tower out of the tsunami zone? What about a County radio station, or a coast-wide radio station? A radio station could also provide messaging for signs along Highway 101. Might state funding for this be available? Councilor Mark said that the Siletz Highway could have been used for evacuations. Also, people could have used South Drift Creek Road, getting there via SE 32nd St, High School Drive and Schooner Creek Road. Councilor Mark asked who makes emergency traffic decisions.

Chief Palmer said that creating a rural side-ride diversion to Highway 229 (the Siletz Highway) would have needed significant labor for traffic control and detour signs. Chief Palmer also said that the types of traffic being sent on those roads should be considered. Would you just send passenger cars that way, or also allow motorhomes and trucks? Chief Palmer also said that while East Devils Lake and West Devils Lake roads were closed, both of them end up on Highway 101, so having access to those wouldn't have helped with traffic issues. Chief Palmer suggests that controlling evacuations by evacuation levels is a better way to handle the situation.

Councilor Hinton said that she would have been willing to direct traffic if she had been given appropriate information. Councilor Hinton said that knowing that Highway 101 was closed to the north would have helped people understand why evacuation was taking so long. Also, knowing exactly where the fire was burning would have helped. Councilor Hinton noted that people in Level 3 evacuation zones couldn't evacuate quickly because people in Level 1 and 2 zones were also evacuating at the same time. Councilor Hinton said people received Lincoln Alerts, but couldn't open them to read them. She would like to see Lincoln Alert information on the front of the alert rather than embedded within it.

Councilor Hinton says that a Communications Plan for the City is important. Councilor Hinton asked if the City can work on alternate evacuation routes, perhaps partnering with other agencies. Might FEMA \$ be available for evacuation?

Councilor Hinton suggested an evacuation drill be tied in with October's Shakeout drill.

Councilor Hinton has received information on public radio services. Councilor Hinton said there are 2 available radio opportunities in this area that the City could apply to own and manage. The City could create a public information radio station for emergency notifications, with weather and tide information available day-to-day.

Councilor Hinton would like to see printed flyers on City property for after-event information, such as telling evacuees where to go and where to get help. Councilor Hinton also wants to make sure the City obtain as much FEMA funding as it can for emergency preparedness and mitigation.

Councilor Hinton asked how City Council can be utilized better in emergency situations, noting that she felt disconnected during this emergency situation. Councilor Hinton appreciated Mr. Chandler calling her twice a day with updates but feels that the value that Council could bring to an emergency was not used.

Mayor Anderson noted it was reported in rural areas that people in civilian clothes knocked on doors to order residents to evacuate. Mayor Anderson said that some people in the Schooner Creek area were suspicious of these orders, especially as they didn't see or feel the fire outside. Chief Palmer said that all County, State and Police staff deployed were in well-marked uniforms. Chief Palmer said that these people could have been local residents trying to spread the word about the evacuation. Chief Palmer reported there has been no reported burglaries or looting from this event.

Councilor Hoagland thanked Mr. Murphy for his report. Councilor Hoagland would liked to have seen Councilors and Volunteers working at critical intersections of local roads and Highway 101 to direct traffic. These areas include Holmes Road, and SE 3rd Street. Councilor Hoagland would like to see a radio station providing relevant information.

Councilor Parsons agrees with all points raised. Councilor Parsons would like to see radio being used for emergency notifications. Councilor Parsons wants to focus on prevention and mitigation, noting we have lots of forested land in the City limits. Councilor Parsons wants the City to be prepared for fire emergencies going forward.

Councilor Hinton asked how Council can discuss updating Lincoln City's part of the County Emergency Mitigation Plan with Mr. Murphy?

Mr. Murphy said he would schedule a meeting on this with Council.

Mayor Anderson asked how Council can be of help during an emergency?

Mr. Murphy said that dealing with rumors that were posted on Facebook took a tremendous amount of time. Mr. Murphy said he attended a debrief with Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital. Mr. Murphy wanted to state that the rumor that the hospital didn't have a generator was not true. The hospital evacuated because it was in a level 2 evacuation zone. The evacuation process for patients went well.

Mr. Murphy would like to propose what to look at and what to fix, with a graduated timeline. Some items can be worked on right away; others will require funding and staff time.

Councilor Mark asked about CERT involvement. Councilor Mark also asked what caused cell towers to go out, and if there was any backup technology available for cell towers in the event of failure? Councilor Mark would have liked a message to have gone to Level 2 and Level 1 areas encouraging those folks to stay home and free up the highway for Level 3 evacuees. Councilor Mark also encouraged the public to

take only one car if they are evacuating, to not tow boats during evacuations, and to prepare for emergencies.

Chief Palmer said that CERT had become a part of NLFR. Councilor Hinton said that CERT members in Roads End were delivering meals on behalf on the Red Cross to evacuees in hotels and motels.

Mr. Murphy said that he referred CERT members directly to the Red Cross during this emergency, knowing that NLFR would not have time to manage CERT during a fire emergency. He will ask Chief Dahlman from NLFR about having the City activating CERT directly during future fire emergencies.

Chief Palmer said education regarding evacuation procedures would be very helpful. Chief Palmer said that when the north end of town was in a level 3 evacuation zone and when people were stuck in traffic. Chief Palmer said that if the fire had been cresting near that area, he wondered how many people knew they could have parked their vehicles and walked to the beach or 1 /2 a mile south to a level 2 zone and been out of immediate danger. Chief Palmer noted that the word evacuation doesn't necessarily mean a journey to Newport or Portland; it can mean a short journey on foot to get yourself to safety.

Mr. Chandler said that public comments sent to the publiccomment@lincolncity.org email address will be posted. Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Chandler about a sensible expectation for the level of recommendations presented by Mr. Murphy? Mayor Anderson noted that there are limited Council meetings in November and December, and that in January Council focuses on its annual goals and the budget.

Mr. Chandler said he will ask Mr. Murphy and Chief Palmer to divide their recommendations into two parts- ones that won't cost much to implement and ones that would have a significant impact on the budget. Mr. Chandler noted that a radio system would be a major budgetary decision.

Mayor Anderson asked when Council could discuss these recommendations with Mr. Murphy and Chief Palmer? Mr. Murphy said he could organize the information into the two categories by the 1st of November.

Mr. Chandler noted how this was a multi-jurisdictional emergency. He also said he will ask Mr. Murphy and Chief Palmer to add a third category of recommendations- ones that need to be made to Lincoln County to improve responses to a multi-jurisdictional emergency.

Councilor Parsons asked Mr. Chandler to be specific about where public comments were being posted, and to share them on the new Facebook page. Mr. Chandler said they were being posted in 4 places- as part of the record for a particular meeting; on Facebook with a link; on the City webpage; and on the Ron's Report blog.

3. ADJOURNMENT

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DICK ANDERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

 // s // David Twigg for
CATHY STEERE, CITY RECORDER

Ronald Chandler

From: Susan Wahlke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: 9/14/20 special meeting

We need a better evacuation process, to relieve congestion. Encourage people to sign up for Lincoln alerts. We need to find places for people to camp.

Sent from my iPhone

Ronald Chandler

From: Susan Wahlke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Donations

We need to be sure the donations get to the people who need them

Sent from my iPhone

Ronald Chandler

From: Elaine Starmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 6:49 PM
To: Ronald Chandler; Riley Hoagland; Diana Hinton; Dick Anderson; Mitch Parsons; Judy Casper; Rick Mark; AnneMarie Skinner
Subject: Looking Forward

Mr. Mayor and City Councilors:

I'm not writing to be a Monday morning quarterback and complain about what did or didn't happen with the evacuation of Lincoln City. I'm more focused on where we go from here.

There are numerous conversations going on and lots of data gathering underway, but what will we do with the output? Will we seize the opportunity to address what has been staring us in the face for so long and act appropriately? Will we use what was learned from these firsthand experiences to make decisions previously thought to be too unpopular or too expensive? Or will memories fade too quickly and we simply go back to business as usual.

I'm not going to restate the obvious. You all know how close we came to a City wide disaster, you know many of the city employees and others who have lost their homes. So, I'm keeping my comments "forward focused".

#1 – ADEQUATELY FUND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Absolutely nothing should be more important to the welfare of Lincoln City and its residents than safety and emergency response capabilities. That includes everything from infrastructure, e.g. options for communication systems, to staffing. Ken Murphy can speak to this more effectively, but we have to stop looking at Emergency Services as just another line item on the budget. We dodged a bullet, so please heed the warning of recent events.

#2 - IT IS TIME TO BAN ALL FIREWORKS CITY WIDE. IT IS TIME TO HOLD OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE.

You witnessed firsthand the obstacles to evacuation created by "one road in - one road out" that exists in Roads End with Logan Road and for the whole city with 101. Every year we hold our breath that someone shooting off fireworks is going to set our neighborhood on fire and create that exact same scenario. We have pleaded with the City in the name of safety on this issue and got nowhere. So let's talk about the financial impact . . . this city cannot afford their cash cow in Roads End to burn to the ground. Banning fireworks is something the City CAN DO to mitigate the risk of fire in our city, SO DO IT! And stop making excuses for offenders, hold them accountable to the full extent of the law. That goes for residents, 2nd homeowners, and tourists alike.

#3 – DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP LCPD STAFFED AND ACCOUNT FOR PEAK TOURIST SEASON WHEN POPULATION SWELLS TO UNMANAGEABLE NUMBERS


This goes along with funding Emergency Services. Figure out what it is going to take to get officers to stay in Lincoln City. I would venture to say the pay is woefully inadequate to afford the limited housing available in LC. Even if we have a fully staffed police force, their numbers are not adequate to handle an evacuation or other serious situations during tourist season. The Echo fire and the events over last July 4th make this painfully obvious. Commit funding for additional policing/security resources during peak tourist season. I understand there will never be enough police officers to support what happened with the Echo fire, but we can do much better than our status quo. When we need to evacuate again someday, there must be better traffic control.

#4 – DON'T ALLOW NON-RESIDENT TRAFFIC BACK INTO THE AREA UNTIL ALL EVACUATION LEVELS ARE CLEARED.

Once residents were allowed back into Roads End, we were still at a Level 2 (be packed and ready to go). Yet, day trippers and tourists arriving at their VRD's were still coming into RE, many of them headed to the Thumb. WHY would non-residents be allowed down the "one road in and one road out" while the area is still under threat of evacuation? Our stores and pharmacies were struggling with diminished supplies of food and other items. LCPD was plenty busy with the aftermath of the evacuation, so we didn't need to add more people to the mix. Does New Orleans welcome tourists into the city after they've had a hurricane? I know this creates an enforcement issue, but perhaps the mayor and city manager could make statements to the news agencies and social media and plead with people to stay away while we try to deal with the devastation and trauma that has hit the city and surrounding areas. It's shameful that people have to be told this, but that is the world we live in. A long term issue to address is property management companies not refunding money to renters when their stay is interrupted by things such as a city wide evacuation. That is an unconscionable practice and should not be allowed in our city. I'm sure I'll be told laws/ordinances will not support that.

I often hear City Council say, "we can't do that" when faced with challenging situations, often pointing to the City Charter, or State laws. I don't doubt we'll hear some of that as we try to evaluate what we could or should do as a result of lessons learned from the Echo fire. But, I ask that you remember laws and charters can be changed. Not easily done, but it can be done. So I ask that you not squelch an idea or action that bears merit simply because existing City Charter creates an obstacle. Do the work to find a way around that obstacle, even if it takes time and a lot of work. Lives (animal and human), livelihoods, and property depend on the actions of City Leadership now more than ever. Please don't let us down.

Elaine Starmer


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Ronald Chandler

From: Janet Knipe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Emergency Preparedness Suggestions

Dear Mayor Anderson, Members of the City Council, City Manager Chandler:

On September 19, the Roads End Improvement Association (REIA) held our September membership meeting which was attended by 30 people. We were grateful to have a presentation by Ken Murphy summarizing events and actions taken during the recent Echo Mountain Fire and evacuation emergency.

After his presentation, he fielded questions and listened to suggestions from our members, which you will see below. We believe it is important that our members—and all residents--have an opportunity to have their voices heard and to share their feedback with Lincoln City officials because this emergency impacted us deeply. As Ken Murphy stated, in an emergency, there are always ways to improve and lessons to be learned for the future.

REIA would also like to express our appreciation for the hard work of all of the first responders, emergency personnel, police and volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep ours, and other, neighborhoods safe.

Suggested areas for improvement for future emergencies:

- 1) **COMMUNICATION ISSUES:** Residents did not receive consistent and accurate information. Not only were there too few updates but also cell service can be difficult in Roads End at any time; cell companies are not likely to improve what is here. Specifically:
 - One central point of communication and one main radio station is needed; residents could not find news on wide-band radio. A universal repeater works, but not without power;
 - Police scanners were mentioned favorably, but residents need more information on what channels would provide the most up to date information in an emergency;
 - Evacuees needed a way to get updated news and information while parked in lines on Logan Road waiting to get onto Hwy101;
 - We need the crucial ability to receive text alerts;
 - Email was limited as a means of communication because the power was out;
 - Need to consider the use of the tsunami siren system for alerting people to other emergencies, not just tsunamis;
 - Land lines tied into the wall worked well, but internet-based phone service did not (no power);
 - Battery-operated radio was not very effective;
 - Need to publish a specific list of what services work best for our neighborhood (and perhaps for all neighborhoods in Lincoln City). In Roads End, it seemed that Centurylink landlines and Verizon cell service was the best.

2) **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES:** Residents sat in their cars waiting to evacuate onto Logan Road and arterials for more than two hours, without any official information on the status of the evacuation. We were frightened for our lives. We know all too well that egress from Roads End is only via Logan Road, which quickly became a parking lot. Suggestions:

- Staff trained in traffic disaster management should be quickly deployed;
- The back gate of Star Resort on 50th Street could be an additional means of egress in an emergency;
- Make both lanes on Logan outbound (we understand the police wanted to keep one lane open for emergency vehicles and personnel but if staff were directing traffic that could be managed).

3) **VRD ISSUES:** This emergency began shortly after Labor Day weekend, but many visitors remained in VRDs in Roads End. They did not know what was happening, what to do or where to go. There are 198 (unlimited and accessory use) VRDs in Roads End, which could result in hundreds of additional cars on Logan Road and over 2000 extra people who have no information on emergency preparedness or how to respond. Emergencies such as these reiterate the need to have proper, limited guest parking which reduces excess vehicles at these homes and does not allow parking on the sides of narrow streets. We also wondered if any of the short-term rental property management companies offered to help their renters who were probably not familiar with local issues, such as poor cell service, location of emergency evacuation sites, and the poor capacity of our road system. As Ken Murphy said, "This is what keeps me awake at night." It keeps us awake, too.

- Emergency preparedness information and evacuation routes must be required and posted (not just suggested) in VRDs;
- Rules must be implemented requiring VRD management companies: 1) furnishing properties with extensive emergency /safety information; 2) requiring people to read and sign before booking that they have read and understand emergency instructions and agree to abide by them; 3) all properties must, at a minimum, have safety equipment, such as flash lights and emergency contact numbers.

Roads End residents, and all of Lincoln City, survived a major emergency situation, but many in surrounding areas were not as fortunate. Despite our neighborhood being spared, we found the emergency preparedness systems of the City and County to be insufficient. We implore City officials to use this as an opportunity to learn how we can do things better going forward to better protect citizens in future disasters and to establish a proper funding source to begin adding necessary resources to respond to the noted problem areas. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Janet Knipe, President

Roads End Improvement Association

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Janet Knipe

Ronald Chandler

From: Nikki Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:15 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Emergency preparedness

Good morning,

I know you have heard many in our community that are crying for an emergency preparedness coordinator. (Department) I think the proof is in the disaster we just experienced.

I would like to add to this department a list of at risk individuals that could not evacuate or communicate. I have a 93 year old and his wife that were left in the dark for 2 days and only by the assistance of another neighbor contacting police to assist with police escort by friends to safety.

These two people were sitting on their coach waiting for help.

My ex brother in law who has since passed away. He could not drive and packed his bag and went down to the store beneath his apartment to try to find a ride.

There needs to be a list that can be followed up on to assure the evacuation of this vulnerable population.

Nikki Hayes

Sent from my iPhone

Ronald Chandler

From: Sheryl Fullerton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Public Comment; Ronald Chandler; Dick Anderson; Mitch Parsons; Rick Mark; Judy Casper; Riley Hoagland; Diana Hinton
Cc: Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: Emergency evacuation efforts in Lincoln City

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and Ron Chandler,

The Echo Mountain Fire and Lincoln City's response to the evacuation order has been what I hope will be a serious and well-heeded wake-up call for the leaders of this community. I was evacuated on Wednesday, September 9, from the Roads End neighborhood, and it was a terrifying experience. We left shortly after the notification and met immediately with stopped-dead traffic on Logan Road. It stayed stopped for 2 HOURS, with no word from anyone about what was going on, why we were stopped, or how long we were going to be there. Meanwhile, the fire was raging. We didn't know if it was coming near, if we'd be trapped in our cars. No one was directing traffic. The northbound lane of Logan Road was closed when it might have been used to ease the congestion. No one came by to tell us anything. Finally, two men in orange shirts showed up as cars started to move and yelled at us that we could go north or south on Highway 101. We had heard all kinds of rumors about what roads were open, what traffic was like, etc., but nothing we could count on. The power was out. Cell service was spotty (as it always is in this neighborhood). I'm happy to say my fellow evacuees behaved calmly, although many were getting out of their cars to see if they could find out what was going on—not a good thing in the time of Covid and the horrible smoky air we had that day.

We returned the following Saturday, September 12, when the evacuation order was lifted, but it was hard to get information in those intervening few days when we wondered if our home was still standing. If it weren't for the word-of-mouth on Next Door and Diana Hinton's and Mitch Parsons' updates we would not have known much at all. I'm very grateful for their conscientious attempts to let us know what they could. The county alerts were sporadic and lacking in clear information. In short, added to the trauma of evacuation was the lack of updates about the fate of our homes and neighborhood. If you read the comments on NextDoor, you will see that many residents share my concerns and my experience.

The upshot here is Lincoln City can and MUST do better. Here is what is needed:

*A clear and frequent communication plan to keep residents apprised of the status of each neighborhood in Lincoln City. Don't look to the county to provide all the information.

*Leaders must be more visible as part of the communication plan to let us know someone is in charge and taking care of what needs attention.

*Email updates are inadequate; Spectrum was out along with power so we had a hard time getting any messages at all. When Spectrum is out so are phones that depend on internet service. Only wired-in phones will work at such times. There needs to be an alternate plan to get the word out, such as city staff going through neighborhoods.

*Traffic in neighborhoods that have only one route in and out needs to be managed actively. Staff, whether from police or fire or volunteers, must be deployed immediately across town to keep residents informed of what's going on and what they should do and what they can expect. Don't let us dangle at the end of gossip wires.

*A plan for VRD education and evacuation must be developed and implemented. Next door to us were VRD visitors who did not know what was going on or where to go. They were not familiar with any Lincoln City sites such as the Community Center or the community college. There are thousands of extra people and hundreds of cars in the Roads End neighborhood all summer and most weekends, which complicates the implementation of any evacuation or emergency plan. VRD owners and management companies must take responsibility for educating their guests for the good of this community and their own safety. In addition, imagine the liability issues if there were to be a catastrophe when there is loss of life and property for VRD guests—if only for that reason the City and the owners should address this issue immediately.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience and thoughts about how we can do better. I am very grateful for the first responders who fought the Echo Mountain Fire and all others who worked so hard to keep us and our homes safe. Let us honor their sacrifices and work with better policies and planning.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Fullerton
Lincoln City

Ronald Chandler

From: Sheila Petersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public comment on Echo Mnt Fire disaster response re: public comment accessibility

- >
- >
- >
- > Why has the City siloed off public comments into two avenues of expression- in person and by email?
- >
- > By limiting the input the City is disenfranchising residents and interested parties from contributing valuable information that the City needs to globally evaluate what transpired: the red flag windstorm on 9/7/20, the Echo Mnt Fire, the Lincoln City evacuation and aftermath.
- >
- > In person comments are burdensome logistically for many - not everyone has the free time and transport to attend in person. Moreover there's a pandemic.
- >
- > Email also takes an assumed level of ability- there's many people who would be better served if there were accommodations made to suit their needs.
- >
- > Moreover, so many people who have comments are prevented from participating because they have prior commitments- many are selflessly volunteering to help with relief efforts- many are dealing with their own losses- and many are just scrambling to keep up with work, family and bills- they don't have the luxury of time to sit down and send an email.
- >
- > The City needs to establish a workable channel of communication with the public.
- >
- > The present system prevents effective communication.
- >
- > However, your citizens are talking about their issues and concerns about this disaster. They are doing it on social media. They're having informative discussions, providing helpful feedback and building community-based solutions in a space where Lincoln City is basically absent.
- >
- > The City needs to enter the modern era of using social media as a tool to gather and disseminate information. Many other Lincoln County public officials and agencies are effectively using social media during this state of emergency.
- >
- > It's time for Lincoln City to become an inclusive government that communicates with its constituents by removing barriers and migrating to where its citizens gather daily to discuss Lincoln City issues.
- >
- > Finally, this email took 45 minutes to write. I am blessed to have the time and skill set. And the length of my endeavor thoroughly illustrates why there's been so few public comments.
- >
- > Please make communication more accessible! Please join social media and enable a space for communication.
- >
- > Please make comments from everyone (whether they use social media or not) accessible to accommodate their preferred method/language.

>

> Sheila Petersen

Ronald Chandler

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Wildfire plan

I believe we need to take a serious look at the failures of the City Manager during the wildfire, and evacuation. A majority of the citizens in this town received no communication by officials during a crisis.

There needs to be systems and backup systems in place in an emergency. Perhaps we can retrofit the tsunami alert system to include wildfire warnings. I'm not sure of the solutions, but I am certain that this was an event that brought the lack of preparedness to light. Wildfire is ranked 7th as a natural threat to our city. We should have been prepared.

I personally believe that there needs to be some accountability, instead of deflecting blame. Our city government needs to acknowledge that there were mistakes made and the manager needs to be held accountable.

Sent from my iPhone

Ronald Chandler

From: Lisa Corzine [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Dick Anderson; Mitch Parsons; Diana Hinton; Riley Hoagland; Diane Kusz; Judy Casper; Rick Mark; Whispers OnWinds; Fran Lonnon; Perry Freed; rep.davidgomberg@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: Emergency Evacuation Plan

Good Evening,

I have emailed each City Council Member, Mayor and the sitting State Senator the below comments, because its just that important of an issue. Not only are you putting the lives of our residents in danger but also the lives of Brave Firefighters, First Responders . We must do Better.

My Comments

- Unprepared for a disaster: Where were the Airplanes with Fire retardant?
- No plan for Medi-Vac
- The New Hospital in Lincoln City no back-up power generators, most Grocery Stores no power back-up, all gas stations closed because of no power.
- Natural Gas was shut-off to homes without notification
- Broadband Communication shut-down, its back-up power did not work.
- Traffic on the 101 South bound out of town was at a crawl
- 101 needs widened and improved in Lincoln County.
- If this event would of been Tsunami many hundreds lives would of been lost.
- The failure of the State to be prepared for a Natural disaster is overwhelming incompetent.

Which comes First "monumental immediate housing needs" or peoples lives during a disaster?..

- My neighbor is on Oxygen and a Pace Maker, she had to flee the area for cleaner air due to the burring of the Forest; she almost did not make it.
- A good friend of mine on Home PD Dialysis, had to grab his 25 pound Liberty Dialysis Machine, and leave the area in order to get the required power to run the machine, because the Hospital did not have back-up power.
- Huge amount of Elderly people in Lincoln City, and the ELECTED officials are hanging them out to dry, it is every man, women and child for themselves during a disaster; and your concerned about housing cost.
- It is not the Governments job to provide housing for people, but is it governments job to protect people from harm

I contacted Joyce Etherton / Secretary of our Lincoln City CERT chapter/North Lincoln Fire & Rescue Team about Certification

- I would like to know if the City Manager and Mayor and Council have any type of Emergency Evacuation Certification?

City of Ashland, Oregon

- Has the Council reviewed any other City's Emergency Evacuation Plan? Because I have and the City of Ashland has a Great One! I believe the Council should review and Copy it, it's that detailed and Organized

2.72.030 Authority

Chapter 401 **Local Jurisdiction have the Authority and Responsibility for Responding to Emergencies**

2.72.040 Declaration of Emergency : Who May Declare an Emergency

The Acting City Manager

Thank you,
Lisa Corzine

Ronald Chandler

From: Rock Your World [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Public Comment; City Council; Richard Appicello
Subject: Over 400 pages and #7 risk

It is unconscionable that Lincoln City had the emergency plans in place to deal with wildfire and that plan was not followed. The buck stops with Ronald Chandler and if it wasn't for the wind to change you would have thousands of charred human carcasses on Highway 101 and it would be the city's liability. We would be no longer a city.

You need to put both of those things in context when you allow Ron Chandler to keep his job.

I hope four of you can find the gumption to save our town from his mismanagement before we all die from his ineptitude. He left his last two jobs in Utah quickly and he needs to leave this one quickly.

Let's find someone who cares and who will actually take care of the citizens instead of let us burn while city council is in ignorance of the situation.

It is absolutely 100% not okay that I was alerting certain city council members to changes before the city was. Me, as a private citizen should not have better access to information than our city government leadership. 100% failure on Ron Chandler's part and he needs to be held accountable.

Signed,
Business Owner
Land Owner
Human Being

Ronald Chandler

From: Doug Pullen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Evacuation idea for next meeting

Good morning Mr Chandler, I sent you a email yesterday to be read at public comment time of the meeting, but it never got read or you didn't receive it. So here is my idea. First off I was out of town during the evacuation, BUT I did receive the message for zone 2 where I live over 450 miles away in Cle elum washington. So it does really work. My idea is to buy updated tsunami sirens with both voice and siren capabilities with battery backup, if we have no power. AND placed every 12 blocks covering all seven miles of town, placed 1 to 2 blocks up from the beach. And also along west devils lake road. And otis also. You can't hear the d river one if your 15 blocks away. I have heard this system used in carnation Washington on 2000 clear as a bell 2 miles away. Can you send me a note that you received this. And also if mayor anderson got one. Thank you Doug Pullen [REDACTED]

Ronald Chandler

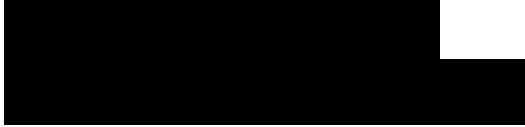
From: Leslie Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Communication from city during Fires

I want to add my voice to those who are disappointed by the lack of communication from Lincoln City during the Echo Mountain fire complex emergency. We were out of town and felt helpless as we attempted to learn how at risk our home and other properties were. The city played zero part in helping inform us. It seems to me Lincoln city was derelict in its duties to its citizens and failed to follow its own emergency plan.

This needs to be fixed. It is unfortunately likely we will have future events where the highways are shut off and people need information. How will you do better? How will you inform your constituents?

As a final note, I believe it would be in your best interest to do some out reach. The disappointment seems to be very widespread.

Leslie Green



[Download My App](#)



Comment Form

The City of Lincoln City welcomes comments. Our goal is to provide City residents and visitors with the very best in customer service. To provide your comment, please complete the below form. A member of our staff will promptly follow-up with you. Please note: Your comment will be routed to the appropriate City Department, where it will be handled according to departmental procedures. Anonymous comments are accepted and will be reviewed; however, should you choose not to provide us with contact information, we cannot provide you with a response.

Thank you for taking the time to comment. Your feedback is valued and appreciated.

Your Name:

Carol Rohfing

Email address:

[Redacted]

Street Address:

[Redacted]

Telephone Number:

[Redacted] or [Redacted]

Preferred Contact Method:

email

Department who should respond (if known)

Lincoln City City Council

Your comment:

In regard to the recent wildfire emergency evacuations, it is suggested that Lincoln City's city manager or emergency manager contact all local AM and FM broadcast stations and request that they broadcast emergency information to keep the public informed. In this case, many people were in their automobiles, trapped in traffic and in many cases had no ability to receive information except by their car radios. Some of the cell service providers were down or operating only intermittently. If cell service is out, there is NO other form of communication except AM or FM broadcast radio.

To submit this form, please save it and email the form as an attachment to Courtney Liberato, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, at cliberato@lincolncity.org. You can also print the form and mail it to the City of Lincoln City, Attn: Courtney Liberato, PO Box 50, Lincoln City, OR 97367 or deliver it to City Hall (801 SW Hwy 101, Lincoln City). If you have any questions, please call Courtney Liberato at (541) 996-1202. Thank you.

9/26/2020

To Lincoln City City Council

Comment on Wildfire Evacuation:

My adult son & I live on Johns Ave in Neotsu.

The morning of Sept. 9th my son's friends (who lived in Otis) stopped at our house & told us that we needed to evacuate as the Echo Mountain fire had traveled south & was burning close to our neighborhood.

I had noticed a Lincoln City Police car driving by my house with only flashing lights activated but I didn't hear any announcement over his speakers to evacuate and no sirens.

My landline phone rang, but I wasn't able to get to it in time to answer. Unfortunately no messages were left on my answering machine as the wind storm and power outage disabled Centurytel.

My son and I soon evacuated south onto Hwy 101 into the worst traffic jam of my life! It is widely known that Lincoln City traffic is bad, but due to decisions to shut down East Devils Lake road during Labor Day weekend AND wildfire season this exponentially worsened traffic on Hwy 101. The influx of tourists during the final throes of Summer and their combined evacuation led to our three hour journey to a friend's house in Depoe Bay. I received my lincolnalerts text message one hour into my 3 hour evacuation.

I have a few suggestions on how to improve the alerting and evacuation procedures:

- Police should ensure they make enough noise when evacuating neighborhoods in order to get attention to the "GO NOW" message.
- lincolnalerts should get TEXTS and alerts to LEVEL 1 evacuations and changes of evacuation sites much earlier.
- Evacuate motels in zones and not all at once. Those closer to the ocean were in significantly less danger than those located next to woodlands.
- Future ODOT road closures should factor in major holidays, drought conditions and wildfire dangers prior to scheduling complete closures. Maybe investigation into a bypass road for Lincoln City should be considered to contend with the congestion issue.
- Lincoln city needs a one way traffic emergency evacuation plan.
- Let's conduct more emergency preparedness educational seminars this fall and make available brochures & fliers for the public.

I'm grateful to the firefighters and first responders for literally saving the Neotsu neighborhood from devastation. (My son's friends weren't as lucky as they lost their Otis home and all its contents in the fire.)

Thank you to the City Council for requesting emergency preparedness feedback and our suggestions on how to improve evacuations and emergency alerts. I'll gladly serve on any future emergency preparedness committees and donate my time to improvement.

Sincerely,

Linda Livingston





Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce
4039 NW Logan Road
Lincoln City, OR 97367
Phone: (541) 994 – 3070
E-mail: Director@lcchamber.com
<https://lcchamber.com>

Dear Emergency Response Team,

I am following up on the Emergency Response Zoom Call facilitated by the Chamber on September 16th.

I continue to received calls and emails at the Chamber from locals and visitors alike voicing their concern and frustration at the chaotic evacuation process during the wildfire emergency.

I have consolidated the email responses into one sheet and will be attached them to this email.

We realize that the wildfires themselves were under the County jurisdiction, however there has been a lot of frustration and angst regarding the evacuation of Lincoln City.

Our hearts go out to the many locals who lost everything in the Echo Mountain Complex Fire and I truly believe that had the winds not died down, and or shifted, Lincoln City would be in the same dire situation.

I believe we have an opportunity to come together and discuss the issues, but most of all find solutions to ensure the locals as well as visitors feel safe in our community.

Having a plan that is not well communicated is like having no plan at all.

Please let me know if the Chamber can be of further assistance. We are here to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Lori Arce-Torres

Questions pertaining to the Evacuation Plan due to the Echo Mountain Complex Fire:

1. Why were both East and West Devils Lake Roads closed simultaneously on a major holiday weekend?
2. Why was there NO signage put on West Devils Lake Rd advising visitors (used to bypassing 101) that the bridge was out?
3. Why was there NO planning for the traffic rerouted onto Holmes Rd to get back on 101?
4. If it is safe for hotels and nightly rentals' cleaning crews to enter and clean immediately after guests depart, why is it too dangerous for city hall to be open? Just in case a citizen had a concern about the traffic backed up on Holmes Road.
5. What if we have a natural disaster while both N/S alternate routes are closed?

I would just add that I finally put up signs myself at 101 & Holmes Rd. as it took hours for vehicles to get past our business on Holmes Rd. BEFORE the evacuation.

1. The city has long discussed relying upon KBCH as the emergency info source, including possibly creating a backup transmitter location and even possibly broadcasting from the Studio at OCCC. The city owns signs that tell folks (like folks who jammed Hwy. 101 heading south with no real info) to tune into 1400 AM for emergency info. **The city should get an estimate together to create this backup plan and apply for grants to make it happen.**
2. The clogged Hwy. 101 was a wake-up call. If fire had raced through Oceanlake, the results could have been catastrophic for just the folks in the cars stuck in the road, not just the shops and residents in the area. Imagine a tsunami and its impact on cars parked on the highway at the D River or Taft. This is a difficult and expensive problem to address, but work has already been done; in the Nelscott Visioning Process, then-Fire Chief Baker and many others agreed a key priority should be an alternate route from the Factory Stores to Taft (and beyond, actually, to Drift Creek), by punching SE 32nd Street up to SE Oar or another nearby road. This would provide a clear route from East Devils Lake at Faith Baptist to Drift Creek, without ever hitting 101. Even if that route were blocked out for all but emergency vehicles, at least it would be a route for emergency vehicles. **The city should push our state and federal delegation to rally**

for funding to make that piece of infrastructure happen. A nice bonus would be the economic development opportunities that would come from opening up that area of town.

There is a need for showering facilities/a shower truck. Is there a group or funding source that can be contacted for help in procuring a shower truck for this immediate need as well as future needs for other emergencies?

2. Same question as #1 but in relation to laundry facilities/laundry truck?
 3. What is the plan for the evacuees currently residing in Lincoln City on a temporary basis after their temporary lodgings are no longer available?
 4. When will a public information officer for the city be hired who can be the immediate spokesperson for dissemination of information?
-

1. Was FEMA initiated in Lincoln City? If so, where was the Command Center set up....etc.
 2. Why wasn't there any communication during and after the evacuation? FB seemed to be the only means to get information, which is where the dispatch for LC Police were sending people with questions
-

The one thing that we are trained to do during an emergency is turn to the radio. In this case, there was no radio to get information from. How do we ensure that we have one source that can be turned to that will give truthful, up-to-date information even if the power, internet and cell service is out?

In the event of an evacuation there needs to be a protocol of who is evacuated first, second, etc. Telling everyone to evacuate at the same time clogged up the streets for hours and left everyone who was stuck in traffic for hours vulnerable.

Ronald Chandler

From: Estle Harlan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Kenneth Murphy
Cc: Ronald Chandler; Dick Anderson
Subject: Testimony re. Fire Evacuation

Ken,

I have been a resident of Roads End since 1993, so I have been aware that living in "paradise" carries its risks. For years we have been warned of earthquakes and tsunamis, and I have my "to go" items in the trunk of my car so I can go up the hill with them to get away from the inundation zone. Of grave concern has been the fact that there is only one way out of Roads End, but I always thought my most likely emergency could be solved by gaining a little more height.

Then came the evacuation of September 9, 2020, due to wildfires to the northeast. That meant we could not go up, we had to go out. Logan Road remained the only way out, except we could not get out for hours. It became apparent how desperately Roads End needed the road out that would get us over the hill and out to Hwy 101 without having to navigate the stall at the Logan Rd.-Hwy 101 intersection. We escaped the wildfires without the loss of any Roads End homes or lives, but it was a warning siren that we cannot/should not fail to heed.

From my service on the City Budget Committee, I am aware of the priority the City has placed on this second road out of Roads End. A significant portion of the planned Urban Renewal Bond would pay for this road and make it a reality. It would happen without the misinformation regarding negative effects on the hospital, fire district, and police. The City has shown integrity and exercised good government in adopting the Urban Renewal Bond. We need to get the benefits of the Bond underway without delay. Lives could depend on it.

Sincerely,

Estle Harlan

[REDACTED]

Dr. Estle Harlan
Management Consultant

[REDACTED]