

**Open Work Session**  
**NIMS Training Classes for Elected Officials**  
**December 1, 2020**

Mr. David Fitzgerald, Emergency Management/Safety Coordinator, came before Council. He said he understands that Council is interested in a very short briefing on NIMS, which is the National Incident Management System and Incident Command. He explained, with Wicomico County's structure set up with an Executive and a Council, during an emergency the Emergency Services Director and the County Executive come to Council for any extension past seven days of a declaration of emergency for the County. He said, as Council is really not involved in the day-to-day operations, they do not have to take any classes, and it is not mandated by FEMA, so it does not affect their grants. He clarified, for Council's informational and knowledge purposes, if they are interested, there are two classes he and Mr. Shipley recommend Council take to get some institutional knowledge. He said one class is the ICS 700, and he can provide Council the online links so they can learn as much as they wish. He said they can look at the links, they can download the manual, or they can look at the book, and if they want to take the test that is fine, but if they do not want to take the test that is fine too. He said the other course is taught in the Emergency Operation Center, and this would show Council what it is all about if they have never been there before. He clarified, this class is not online but is a taught class, and they could just do a briefing if certain Councilmembers are interested in that. He explained, it is a face to face class because it is geared to exactly how the students operate, so in this case with the Council they would talk directly on how the County EOC operates, and how they interact with the municipalities and all their partners. He said he will provide Mrs. Hurley with the links so Council can look at the online classes and download the course manual. He said the G course is about an 85-page manual if Council wants to skim through it, and if they want more information from Emergency Services, he would be glad to provide that for Council.

Mr. Cannon asked if they have to take a test, to which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, no, it is just institutional knowledge. He said, if Council would like to gain more knowledge about these classes and operations, he would be glad to provide that for Council.

Mr. Dodd asked if this would show them how the Counties operate during an emergency, to which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, yes, that is what the G class would be, and he would suggest they come out to the Emergency Operations Center. He said they would set it up and show Council the different rooms and how they use them.

Mr. Hastings said he really appreciates Mr. Fitzgerald bringing this to Council because he loves learning more. He said, when he attended his very first MACO session, one of the classes actually talked about how the more that local governments can do to be informed on these kinds of matters, they can lower their insurance costs by having more certifications, or more knowledge base among Elected Officials and others. He clarified, he doubts they would be able to do much as far as their insurance, but he loves the idea of continuing to make sure they are prepared, and he loves the idea of getting more information and understanding about how Council can be supportive, so he thanks Mr. Fitzgerald for this.

Mr. Davis asked if they have a mobile incident command unit, to which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, yes, the County has a mobile command vehicle. Mr. Davis asked if it is the big unit that sits at the landfill, to

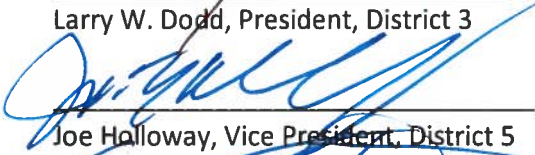
which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, it has been stored at the landfill in the Solid Waste storage unit. He said lately, especially with COVID, they have been keeping it at the EOC area of the Detention Center. He said they keep it plugged in and that way they can go out daily. He said they are doing some maintenance to it, but, yes, it is normally kept at Solid Waste in the pole barn.

Mr. Dodd said it would probably be a good idea for Councilmembers to attend some type of orientation so they know what is going on out at the Emergency Center, and what vehicles they have out there, and what every job is. He said that would be a good idea, to which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, they would be glad to have Council.

Mrs. Hurley asked if the online course is a self-paced course, or is there a certain time period in which it should be accomplished, to which Mr. Fitzgerald responded, it is self-paced. He clarified, it has its glitches like anything else on the computer, so it may start over, and they would just need to fast forward through the slides, but they can take as long as they want to. He said they can also download the slides and just look at them without having internet access. There was no further discussion.



Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3



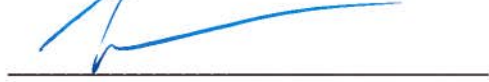
Joe Holloway, Vice President, District 5



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



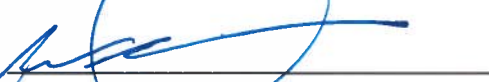
Nicole Ache, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



John T. Cannon, At-Large



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator