

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: September 4, 2015 Weekly Council Update

Cedar County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: Cedar County EMA Director Tim Mallot will present the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the City Council at a Work Session on Monday October 5th at 6:30 p.m. The plan is available on the city website at the following link: <http://www.westbranchiowa.org/departments/projects>. The purpose of the plan “is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards. Cedar County and participating jurisdictions developed this multi-jurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan update to reduce future losses to the County and its communities resulting from hazard events.” The plan is updated every five years and would replace the 2011 Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan is in part developed to make Cedar County and participating jurisdiction, West Branch being one of those jurisdictions, “eligible for certain federal grant programs; specifically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, PreDisaster Mitigation Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.” Hazards are identified as Dam Failure, Drought, Earthquakes, Expansive Soils, Extreme Heat, Flash Flood, Grass/Wildland Fire, Hazardous Materials Incident, Radiological Incident, River Flood, Severe Winter Storm, Sinkholes, Terrorism, Thunderstorm/Lightning/Hail, Tornado/Windstorm, and Transportation Incidents. Four of these hazards were added to this update and were not included in the 2011 Plan: Dam Failure, Hazardous Materials Incident, Radiological Incident and Terrorism.

In an effort to lessen disaster impacts and reduce vulnerability to hazards and losses, fifteen mitigation actions were identified for West Branch: 1) obtain missing data for the plan, 2) acquire additional back-up generators, 3) identify vulnerable power, service, electrical, and water distribution lines, 4) construct additional storm shelters, 5) make stormwater system and drainage improvements, 6) streambank stabilization, grade control structures, and channel improvements, 7) conduct a drainage study/stormwater master plan, 8) acquire flood-prone property, 9) continue to enforce local floodplain regulations, 10) maintain in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, 11) continue to improve floodplain management practices, 12) increase public awareness of natural hazards and how to protect people and property, 13) continue to update emergency response equipment utilized by West Branch Fire and Rescue, 14) evaluate the outdoor warning siren system, and 15) seek funds that could relocate the Fire Station/Police Station out of the floodway.

Local Access Channel Update: The Cable Access channel is working with the West Branch Football Team to show recorded games again this year. The schedule for games will be 5am/5pm daily and 10am/7pm on Thursdays and Saturdays. The first showing each week will be the 7pm showing on Saturday following the game per availability of the recording. Mediacom customers currently have access to the channel. Unfortunately, the channel is not currently available to Liberty Communications customers because of a suspected networking error. Staff has notified Liberty Communications and they are now working to resolve this issue.

Bulletproof Vest Grant Received: The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance announced yesterday afternoon that the West Branch Police Department will be the recipient of a grant for \$585.85 for the purchase of the latest National Institute of Justice compliant armored vest.

Annual Goal Setting Session: A staff report will be given at the September 8th City Council Meeting on the upcoming annual goal setting session, which will take place during a Work Session following the regular Council Meeting on Monday Sept. 21st. The September 8th Council Packet contains all of the goals that have been adopted in the last five years. Elected officials are encouraged to contact the City Office with any goals that you would like to have considered in this year's goal setting session.

Greenview Cocktail Club: The Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals Administrative Hearings Division has provided the City of West Branch with a notice of telephone hearing on the suspension of the liquor license for the Greenview Cocktail Club. The hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Margaret LaMarche. City Attorney Kevin Olson, Police Chief Mike Horihan and City Administrator Matt Muckler will participate by telephone from the West Branch City Council Chambers.

Upcoming City Meetings & Events: Please see the Calendar of Events on the City Website at <http://westbranchiowa.org/home> for a complete list of upcoming events. There are several Council, Board and Commission Meetings currently scheduled:

- Monday September 7th – Labor Day Holiday – City Offices Closed
- Tuesday September 8th at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Thursday September 10th at 6:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees
- Tuesday September 15th at 6:30 p.m. West Branch Preservation Commission
- Thursday September 17th at 6:30 p.m. Park & Rec Commission Meeting
- Monday September 21st at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Monday September 21st (after Council) City Council Work Session
- Tuesday September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg.
- Wednesday-Friday September 23rd-25th Iowa League of Cities Conference

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.