



MEMORANDUM

DATE:	July 1, 2008
TO:	Mayor and Town Board
VIA:	Kelly Arnold, Town Manager
FROM:	Dallas Everhart, Tornado Recovery
RE:	Tornado Recovery Activities and Opportunities

Background / Discussion:

The following report identifies activities and opportunities associated with the tornado and severe storm in Windsor on May 22nd. The report has been organized into the following sections:

- Finance
- Facilities / Town owned building and structures
- Building Permit / Citizen and business reconstruction
- FEMA / DOLA / Long Term Recovery

Financial impact:

The immediate cost of the tornado to the Town includes over \$800,000 paid to outside vendors for services. The majority of the \$800,000 is a Town expense for debris removal from public streets and private property; however a portion of the payments will be reimbursed by insurance from Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Association (CIRSA) for cleanup and immediate repairs to Town property. The current estimate for debris removal and immediate cleanup is around \$1.2 million less a reimbursement from CIRSA for Town properties. The staff has reviewed invoices catching a few errors, mostly duplicate invoices and incorrect rates. Most of the cleanup work will be completed soon and a final net cost of the cleanup will be reported.

The clean up also includes “inkind” services estimated over \$500,000 from neighboring communities, private companies and Town equipment and staff overtime estimates. The estimate of staff overtime includes salaried employees who do not receive paid overtime. This figure does not include the invaluable contribution of citizens, individuals, and organizations that have made a difference in the recovery efforts. These organizations have collected over \$500,000 in cash towards long term recovery, which is discussed later in this report.

Reconstruction of Town facilities have priorities based on weather proofing buildings, severity of damage, immediate needs and long term opportunities. Many of the estimates for reconstruction require engineering studies before CIRSA will approve payments. The total financial impact of the reconstruction may include insurance payments, the current budget, and the cost of moving or changing future capital projects to create opportunities. By leveraging reconstruction funding with current or future Town funds and private donations, the Town may be able to upgrade several facilities and ultimately provide a higher level of services to the Citizens. This may require either quick decisions or patience for planning. The Town may also

have opportunities for grants to assist in funding, rebuilding green, or expanding the scope of projects.

Facilities

Our CIRSA policy provides for a reimbursement of 3% of total reimbursement for a project manager for reconstruction efforts and the Town has retained John Moore. The swimming pool was opened quickly at Chimney Park, the ball fields at Diamond Valley and Cemetery Park will be available July 1, and many other smaller or temporary structures are operational. The reconstruction of most properties will result in newer or improved construction and facilities. The Town appears to have the greatest opportunity for significant improvements at the following locations:

- Chimney Park
- Lakeview Cemetery Park
- Old Town Hall
- Folkstone Park
- 392 & 257 Town entry corridors

Repairs to the Cemetery Park ball fields have been minimal to preserve future opportunity while restoring the facility to a useable condition. As a result of the FEMA approved ESF 14 program, the Town may have additional resources available to assist in several projects. As an example, due to ESF 14, the Town has access to Higher Education resources at CU and CSU that can provide technical assistance associated with 392 and 257 corridors planning and landscaping.

Damage to vehicles is covered under CIRSA and the Town will receive over \$300,000 for repairs to 70 vehicles or pieces of equipment. The strategy is to provide departments with the pre tornado level of vehicles immediately and work on a revised vehicle replacement plan for the 2009 budget. Efforts will be taken to defer repairs where possible so repair and reimbursement funds can be used for vehicle and equipment replacement next year, providing it does not adversely impact current department operations.

As a result of completing the CIRSA claim for property damage, several improvements will be made to our property lists. The process for adding properties and equipment will be reviewed to insure an accurate and complete list is updated annually. We will also have current files on each property that identify work completed and the responsible contractor.

Building Permits / Citizen and Business reconstruction

Reconstruction of private property will be a major issue for the Town (Planning & Code Enforcement) in the foreseeable future. There are about 400 properties that will require major work. Numerous issues such as insurance claims, asbestos removal, historical considerations, foreclosures, etc. will require a high level of personal attention to track restoring these 400 properties. The Planning department is preparing a bi weekly progress report on residential property and a weekly progress report on commercial properties. The staff is using the GIS

system and building permit activity to track progress. The goal of the program is to quickly identify the properties with no activity and provide assistance immediately. About 100 of the 400 properties have obtained a building permit, of some kind, indicating activity.

The 400 properties represent the “major or catastrophic” damages from the tornado. Over 2,000 “one stop” building permits have been issued for tornado related activities indicating a minimum of 1,900 additional homes sustained damage. We will be able to eventually identify the total number of properties damaged by the tornado and storm by the number of building permits issues. SafeBuilt has identified June 30th as the last day for waived fees. Staff is recommending that the Town administrative fee waiver cease on July 23rd. Of primary concern is the property owners’ progress following the FEMA requirements to be qualified for numerous programs.

FEMA / DOLA / Long Term Recovery

The number of organizations, people, and programs available for citizens, businesses, and the community is inspiring, if not overwhelming. The staff from FEMA and the related programs have been very dedicated to both the immediate impacts and the long term recovery. Don Sandoval from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the related programs has been equally supportive and helpful. At the Federal and State level, the focus is moving from the immediate response to the long term recovery.

The long term recovery efforts include so many opportunities the Town may have to prioritize which efforts they can support. Fortunately there appears to be numerous organizations nationally and locally that are dedicated the recovery including Windsor and the larger community. In an effort to efficiently describe the different programs, they can be divided into two main programs:

FEMA – Volunteer Agencies (COVA) – Long Term Recovery – for Individuals
FEMA – Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 – Long Term “Community” Recovery

FEMA – Volunteer Agencies – Long Term Recovery – for Individuals

Under this program, several subcommittees exist to meet the needs of individuals impacted by the disaster including volunteer coordination, case management, crisis counseling, community assessment, finance and donations, unmet needs and city and county liaisons. The Town of Windsor is represented by Mary Robins on the Unmet Needs Subcommittee and Mary and Dallas Everhart (interim) are the City Liaisons. The organizations occupying the multipurpose room at the Town Hall are part of the Unmet Needs Subcommittee. The Town has provided the space and covered the initial set up expenses. The groups will fund the long term occupancy expenses for an estimated 12 months. It is important for all impacted individuals and businesses to register with FEMA and complete applications for assistance even if they believe they will be denied or if they will not use the programs. Assistance from the Unmet Needs organizations may be dependent on registration and denial of other programs. This approach will result in increased resources available for unmet needs for individuals that are not eligible for other programs.

From a larger perspective, we can reference this program as Long Term Recovery for Individuals. Once the subcommittees are finalized and chairs identified we will distribute a list of committees, organizations and contacts so we can all help respond to citizen's questions.

FEMA – Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 – Long Term “Community” Recovery

The State successfully requested ESF – 14 Long Term Community Recovery designations to allow access to numerous programs that have traditionally only been available to larger disasters. FEMA serves as the coordinating agency and we now have access to additional programs offered by the Departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Housing & Urban Development and the Small Business Administration (SBA) and numerous other support agencies. The Partnering for Community Recovery in Weld and Larimer Counties Brief Report and Recommendation identifies nine priorities:

1. Increase the engagement and interaction of available federal and state government services
2. Build relationship between affected area representatives
3. Organize state and local partners in supporting “green” redevelopment and reconstruction
4. Develop projects for pre-disaster mitigation grant initiatives
5. Conduct an assessment of low to moderate income workforce housing in Weld County
6. Revitalize and repair community entry corridors in Windsor, Milliken, and Gilcrest
7. Coordinate an economic impact study of the tornado affected communities
8. Work with DOLA and CDEM to bring additional state resources including
 - a. State Mitigation team resources, training, and support
 - b. Resources of the state university and community college system
9. Ascertain availability of private funding to address storm related damage

In this effort, the Town is a major player along with neighboring communities, the counties, and state and federal agencies. The scope of the projects may expand overtime and the Town may prioritize which programs it can pursue. The “green” subcommittee has already scheduled the first meeting and the Town is represented Joe Plummer. Kelly will be meeting with FEMA, DOLA, and Colorado Department of Emergency Management staffs on a regular basis.

FEMA / DOLA / Long Term Recovery Summary

It is very important for individuals impacted by the tornado to register with FEMA and complete all associated applications or information requests. The number of applications will impact the availability of current and future programs. In the June 12th FEMA Fact Sheet, 13 agencies were identified to assist with individuals basic emergency needs. The community's eligibility for future grants or programs may be impacted by the number of individuals who complete registration and return SBA applications. From this perspective, we as a community need every individual to complete the registrations or applications even if they will not use the assistance. By completing the application, they may be providing eligibility for programs for individuals who do have needs. At this time, it appears the primary concern is related to SBA applications.

Concluding Remarks:

Staff will provide additional information on recovery activities and opportunities to the Town Board on a regular basis. Due to the financial impacts a mid year appropriation ordinance will be prepared for the Town Board and additional budget appropriations may be identified to allow the Town to turn the events of May 22nd into an opportunity for the Community.

Finally, it is anticipated that the short term Town administrative needs will be in place in mid to late August. At that time, an Assistant to the Town Manager will be in place and take over the program recovery efforts.