

Journal of the Mayor's Storm Actions

I am providing the following journal so that you are aware of my activities during the power outages of the week of August 28 through September 5. Dates of these activities are to the best of my recollection; I am likely leaving out several items and am not including regular Township Committee activities. After determining that there were no immediate danger to life/health issues, my primary concern was getting power restored and trying to provide some relief for our residents.

Sunday, Aug. 28, starting at 10AM : Drove several roads, took photos and videos of flooding and house damage for OEM. Drove up Lindbergh Road, observed downed wires. Met Bob Kadezabek and discussed road damage and restoration. Received info from OEM Coordinator, Charles Soos and sent damage/flooding pictures. Increasing winds made travel hazardous in the afternoon.

Monday, Aug. 29: Met with Administrator and OEM to discuss roads, flooding and power loss. Further communications with OEM. Began calls to all JCP&L numbers to get information (Customer Service was out of power). Received first resident complaints – answered all calls. Drove roads and observed major downed wires. Called Hunterdon County Road Dept. to get flashing lights for road barricades and asked for more/better barricades (none available). Verified placement of flashing lights. Received call from Assemblywoman Shirley Turner's office and discussed outages. Made call to Rush Holt's office to discuss outages and damage. Loaned my personal generator to two residents.

Tuesday, Aug. 30: Met with Administrator to get road update. Visited blocked roads to note severity of problems and whether there was a response. Received numerous complaints and provided info from JCP&L to each caller. Got a contact name/number for JCP&L Morristown Area Office and called to determine extent of outages and restoration timeframe. Called JCP&L numerous times to notify of particular problems. Reported a hazmat spill at the Rileyville Road broken pole location. Received and reviewed OEM updates.

Wednesday, Aug. 31: Met with Administrator to discuss road issues and what could be done for residents. Requested that Clawson Park hydrant be opened for resident use. Called Retro Fitness and negotiated free showers for residents. Worked with Clerk to update our website, noting above options. Received and replied to numerous resident complaints. Witnessed accident at corner of Linvale and Orchard. Spoke with residents about speeding on the detour. Checked with Administrator if radar speed sign could be used (not movable due to downed wires). Identified resident with medical need and dropped off my generator. Second call to Rush Holt's office, providing update of power situation.

Thursday, Sept. 1: Drove to downed wire sites, especially Rileyville Road, to look for progress. Made numerous calls to JCP&L regarding problems. Received many calls from residents and provided all available information. Received outage reports from residents and relayed to JCP&L. Visited Orchard Road resident who complained about speeding, noting inaccessibility of our speed trailer.

Friday, Sept. 2: Drove to downed wire sites several times. Made numerous calls to JCP&L. Continued to receive resident calls and provided info to each. Checked on water usage at Clawson Park. Many residents were using water. Checked with Retro Fitness – several residents took showers there. Thanked owner for assistance. Relayed latest info on repair status to JCP&L. By 6PM, power was restored to many residents when Wertsville Road damage was repaired. Picked up personal generator and delivered to another resident on Lindbergh Road without power, identified by OEM as in need. Call from Rush Holt's office. Phone interview with Democrat reporter – noted water and shower availability.

Saturday, Sept. 3: Continued to receive numerous resident calls and answered all. Worked with JCP&L to identify unresolved problems. Checked Lindbergh Road and Rileyville Road. Spoke with line crews and residents at various locations. Observed pole replacement on Rileyville Road. Followed-up with JCP&L as to why power was not restored when pole was replaced.

Sunday, Sept. 4: Continued to receive power outage reports and continued to work with JCP&L to identify locations. Made follow-up calls to residents to verify power restoration. Retrieved my generator from resident with restored power.

Monday, Sept. 5: The last downed wires were repaired. Received several calls in the morning and followed up with return calls to verify power restoration. Requested that JCP&L and Verizon send representatives to our Thursday meeting. Made inquiries about filing a negligence complaint against Verizon for deliberately ignoring a leaning pole for over a year.

In all, I estimate that I received and placed over a hundred calls during the week, and about a dozen e-mails. I received calls from the public that ranged from 7:30AM to 9PM. When residents called, I provided each with all the information I had and normally spent at least 10 minutes – often more – per call. I spoke with the following people at the JCP&L area Communication Center in Morristown, NJ: Manager John Anderson, Pete Johnner, Dave File, Michael, and Elaine. I would hope that all my calls to them advanced the power restoration efforts, but I am not sure.

Larry Tatsch
Mayor