

From: Susan Mazurski March 23, 2009 1:01:35 PM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 01/22/2009 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
January 22, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for January 22, 2009, was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members of the sub-committee were present: Peter Sevetz, Kevin Kowalski, Peter Ingvertsen, James Baldis, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Mike Delehanty Lucille Bowman and John Hampton (Chairman). Bob Hensley, Burke LaClair, Robert Wojciak and other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was none.

1. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – Mr. Delehanty stated that they will be getting a new ambulance next week. There had been a delay; they were supposed to get this ambulance in September. He stated that the electronic patient care report system is in the ambulances; this took effect on January 1, 2009, although the printer has not yet been set up at the hospital.

Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski stated that Web EOC is currently in operation. This web based emergency operation center gives information that is pertinent around the State. It also allows them to communicate with surrounding areas. Hartford's EOC has been very active because of the cold weather. Simsbury can monitor what is going on in major incidents around the State. Mr. Kowalski stated that this system is password protected.

In response to a question from Chairman Hampton, Mr. Kowalski stated that the Police Department has been running the NIMS training. He stated that all levels of training can be done on-line. He stated that he will be getting information out regarding this. All management people should take this training. This training can be done in the Police Department or at home; it takes approximately 2 hours.

Fire – Chief Baldis stated that it has been quiet as far as fires, although they have been busy because of the weather. They have had many calls related to water and pipes that have burst.

Regarding public safety and making hydrants accessible when it snows, Chief Baldis stated that they rely on residents to clean them out. He stated that they appreciate the help by the Public Works as well.

Regarding the Numbers Up Program, Chief Baldis stated that this is very important when they are out on a call for an emergency and cannot find the house because there is no number. He stated that they have information on the Numbers Up Program on their website, although they would like to work with the Public Safety Committee regarding getting more awareness out to residents. He stated that this could be done by televising something on SCTV and using the Town's website. He stated that this program will help all services.

Chairman Hampton stated that he would mention this at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they still have 20 beacon lights left. These are emergency flashing lights that plug into the regular light bulb. If the light switch is flipped once, the regular light will come on; if the light switch is flipped twice, then the light flashes. This is very convenient for Fire and Police to find houses that have called for their services. She stated that she would look into getting more, although the company that they previously purchased them from has gone out of business.

Farmington Valley Health District – There was no report.

Police – Regarding the Radio Amplification Ordinance, Mr. Sevetz and Mr. Kowalski have reviewed the draft; one draft was sent to the Town Attorney for his review on November 7, 2008. Mr. Sevetz stated that there has not been any legal review of the draft as of yet. Regarding the costs involved, he stated that all of the related costs are borne by the building developer; there is no cost to the Municipality.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that this is a simple system, although without it,

they cannot communicate while in certain buildings.

Regarding Reverse 911, Mr. Sevetz stated that the system has a malfunction. CRCOG will not accept the product from Reverse 911 with the deficiency. The company has been unable to make the required repairs to the system. As of next week, if the repairs are not made, CRCOG will be getting together with their legal representatives to take whatever legal steps are necessary; either force them to comply immediately or they might back out of the contract. Mr. Sevetz stated that there is no date as of yet for Reverse 911 to be implemented.

Mr. Kowalski stated that Reverse 911, in the emergency management field, is the number one item on their wish list. This is one of the best services that they could provide to residents. He stated that the Board of Education uses a similar system, which has proven itself. Mr. Kowalski questioned what costs were incurred by the Board of Education. Mr. Sevetz stated that the cost is \$2.50 per student or approximately \$12,000 per year.

Mr. Sevetz stated that the State of Connecticut Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications is trying to push through legislation to allow Municipalities to use the AT&T 911 database. Currently, the Reverse 911 database is based on telephone numbers that are obtained from the commercially available database, which does not include unlisted numbers.

Social Services – Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that Mary Glassman asked her to participate in Governor Rell's conference call regarding the cold weather on a State level. She stated that 45 shelters were open in the State, which were full. The National Guard then opened 5 armories. State Police have also been sweeping the highways looking for abandoned and disabled vehicles that people might be stuck in. Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that the conference call was a great communication with many people from all around the State.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that she is looking into holding classes in Simsbury together with the Red Cross for shelter operations and emergency management. This class would be open to the surrounding Towns.

Chairman Hampton questioned how the situation was regarding people needing shelter throughout the day. Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they use the Senior Center in the summer for cooling and in the winter for heating, although during the day, not many people are in need of the warmth. She stated that Simsbury's role is to make sure the people have heat. Most calls that they receive are for heat. Social Services helps people get into programs that they need. They use the Keep Simsbury Warm Program in emergency situations until people can get enrolled in the State program,

which usually takes approximately 30 days. She stated that the number of people calling Social Services for help are way up from last year; more people are qualifying this year.

Board of Education – Mr. LaClair stated that he received a call from the Department of Emergency Management regarding the grant that the Town applied for. The program started out with \$5 million in funding, which has been cut to \$2 million. They are now fighting to keep this \$2 million in order to award the grants. Mr. LaClair stated that he will know by the end of the month if they will be awarded the funding.

Regarding parking at Central School, Mr. LaClair stated that this has been a problem because of the snow. Memorial Field parking is normally the overflow in the warmer weather, although this is not an option in the winter. He stated that they are currently looking into solutions.

CL&P – Mr. Wojciak stated that in December, CL&P sent out invitations regarding an emergency responder session. They were going to address safety issues during emergencies. During this session, they also wanted to get feedback from emergency personnel to see how CL&P can better communicate during an emergency event. Mr. Wojciak stated that they have rescheduled this session; it will now be held in February. They will be sending invitations out shortly.

Mr. Wojciak stated that they have had some problems with CL&Ps feed to Hopmeadow Street and other areas of Simsbury. He stated that they have a backup supply on Riverside Road. He stated that they have replaced the circuit breaker unit; they should now have an automatic backup that works going forward.

Mr. Ingvertsen stated that CL&P had met with them several times to keep them up to date with this issue. He stated that when this occurred, CL&P immediately responded to get the power back on.

Mr. Kowalski stated that during one incident, they lost power due to an accident. He stated that CL&P was quick to respond to the site; their response has always been good. He commended CL&P on the work that they do.

Chairman Hampton welcomed Mr. Roy, Director of Public Works to the meeting. Mr. Roy stated that there are several projects that need to get done, including an inspection of the Town radio tower. He stated that he will be looking at this when the weather is warmer.

Regarding the Numbers Up Program, Mr. Roy stated that in other areas, the Fire Department went out and had numbers made up for residents. He stated that numbers could be made at the highway garage.

Mr. Hensley questioned if there was an Ordinance in place regarding having numbers on houses. Mr. Kowalski stated that there is an Ordinance for this in Simsbury. Mr. Hensley stated that he would be bringing this topic up at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Review, discuss and possibly approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2008

Chairman Hampton made one edit to the November 20, 2009 minutes.

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the November 20, 2008 minutes as amended. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. ADJOURN

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was unanimously approved.