

From: Susan Mazurski May 25, 2010 9:22:18 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 05/20/2010 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
May 20, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for May 20, 2010, 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 Ingvertsen, Mike Delehanty, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), Chief Baldis, David Holden, Tom Roy, Burke LeClair, Geoff Giddings and Bob Wjociak. Other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review, discuss and possibly approve minutes from Special Meeting on March 18, 2010

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the March 18, 2010 minutes as written. Mr. Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance

Mr. Delehanty stated that he attended a meeting with the new management of the UCONN Fire Department regarding their availability as a backup paramedic service for Simsbury. They would like to continue to provide service for the Town. Mr. Delehanty stated that he feels it would be

appropriate to have UCONN as the primary backup.

Ms. Bowman questioned if this would affect the agreement that Simsbury has with AMR. Mr. Delehanty stated that this agreement would not be affected in any way.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the UCONN Fire Department was very interested in being a part of the May 8th exercise. He stated that they worked with hazardous materials during that exercise.

Civil Preparedness

Mr. Kowalski stated that there is consideration for a grant for a generator system. The Town would like the Tariffville School to have a generator for the purpose of having their own shelter space and to enhance the services with a generator.

Mr. Kowalski distributed a handout regarding the Numbers Up Program. The Boy Scouts have been working on this project. He stated that they have found several homes in Tariffville that did not have numbers. Some of these residents stated that they would not put numbers on their houses even after a copy of the Ordinance was handed out to them. Mr. Kowalski questioned if, through the Police Department, the Town should have a campaign regarding this program. Pamphlets could be handed out to make people aware of the safety issues and the Ordinance that the Town has. Chief Baldis stated that they need to look at how they approach this issue regarding enforcement and/or awareness. He stated that mailings could go out regarding awareness with a follow up of enforcement. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they can put an article in the newspaper and something on the Town website in order to make residents aware of this Ordinance. Something could be put in the tax bills also.

The Subcommittee members discussed the Ordinance and how it is written regarding the placement of the identification numbers. Mr. Kowalski suggested discussing the wording of the Ordinance at the next meeting in order to see if it is still appropriate.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the Boy Scouts have done an excellent job with this project and with collecting this data.

Fire

Chief Baldis stated that construction on the firehouse continues to progress. The landscaping around the building, as well as construction internally will begin as well. He is hopeful that the building will be ready for occupancy in July. He stated that in the meantime, they have

moved Engine 8 from the Red Barn to Ensign Bickford. He thanked the Town for their cooperation in allowing the Fire Department to use the Red Barn as temporary storage during the winter months.

Chief Baldis stated that Simsbury recently had several lost person events. There was great cooperation with Simsbury Police Department getting an early response; all persons were found.

Chief Baldis stated that at their annual meeting, their budget was reduced by 3%.

Farmington Valley Health District

Police

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have finished their work on the notification system, although he asked that the Safety Committee members call his Secretary if there are any changes to their contact phone numbers.

Sergeant Boulter stated that the Emergency Notification System is up and running. He stated that they will be running a test within the next few weeks; Committee members should all be receiving an automated notification on activation of the EOC. He stated that there will be instructions on how to respond in order to confirm that the message was received.

Social Services

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that she is working with Chief Ingvertsen to create a "No Phone Zone" campaign for Simsbury. She stated that this is a promise that Simsbury will not use their phones to talk or text while driving. She stated that people can sign a pledge. They will also be handing out bracelets and magnets as a part of this campaign.

Board of Education

Mr. LeClair stated that they had their walk audit by the Safe Routes to School consultant firm, who issued a report. He thanked Sergeant Boulter for his support with traffic counts. He stated that they will be reviewing this report in order to help improve safety for students.

CL&P

Mr. Wjociak stated that they are working on improving their response time during major events. They will be providing information to customers through the Emergency Notification System.

NEW BUSINESS

DeBrief on exercise held May 8, 2010 – Ironhorse 2010

Chairman Hampton stated that the Board of Selectmen thanks Mr. Kowalski and everyone involved for all of the efforts that went in to this exercise. He stated that there were a lot of people involved and a lot was learned.

Mr. Kowalski gave a slide presentation of the May 8, 2010 exercise. He stated that there was a great deal of planning prior to this exercise, which included planning, working on the scenario, a tabletop exercise and then the full scale exercise. This planning took approximately one year. He stated that the objectives for this exercise were to include all of the departments and to detect areas for improvement in the system and increase familiarity with emergency operation plans.

Mr. Giddings reviewed the executive summary. He stated that FEMA has a list of 37 target capabilities that all communities should be addressing. Simsbury addressed eight of these target capabilities during this exercise.

Mr. Kowalski showed the Subcommittee pictures of the exercise. There were several live spot fires with thick smoke at times at the scene. He stated that there were 41 live victims and 21 dummy victims, which were labeled with certain injuries. Mr. Kowalski stated that, also, this was the first time that they have used the new Smart Triage System. Mr. Kowalski stated that safety was their first concern during this exercise.

Mr. Kowalski stated that Bradley Field rescue trucks did respond to this incident as they would if this was a real accident. There were also Fire Departments from surrounding Towns involved in this scenario. He stated that the following also participated in this exercise: Police Department, Ambulance, Fire Department, Public Works, Social Services, Board of Education, Avon Fire Department, and a Regional Hazmat Team, as well as other companies and organizations. He stated that the Incident Management Team was a very good asset to this exercise.

Mr. Giddings reviewed the strengths of this exercise. He stated that all of the departments worked great together. Mr. Kowalski stated that one of the strengths, using Regional assets, showed that people who had training felt more confident and knowledgeable to make decisions.

Mr. Kowalski also addressed areas that needed improvement. He stated that the first thirty minutes to one hours of any incident makes the difference as to whether it will be a positive or negative outcome.

In summary, Mr. Kowalski stated that this was overall, an extremely

successful event. While the incident was scripted, the weather was not; neither were the responses. There were notification issues that needed to be overcome. He stated that the Emergency Declaration was completed. They met their objectives for the overall evolution and they received good feedback from all participants. Mr. Kowalski stated that there were no injuries and no damage during this training event.

Mr. Kowalski asked members of the Subcommittee for their perspective of this exercise.

Chief Baldis stated that this was a great exercise. They were prepared for some issues that arose, although they were not prepared for others; this kind of exercise is realistic because of that. He stated that he was in the command post. Although he could hear fine, some people had trouble hearing him. He stated that they went to a more local frequency which helped. He thanked all of the Departments for all of their hard work.

Chairman Hampton questioned how to engage businesses in this type of incident. Mr. Kowalski stated that the Town could incorporate a resource list, although they try to stay away from private industry. He stated that they have to establish their needs and then look for people to fill them.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that all of the departments worked very well together during this incident. Simsbury learned a great deal from this exercise.

Mr. Delehanty stated that this was the most organized and realistic exercise that he has participated in. From the Ambulance perspective, they implemented things that they have learned in other exercises. He feels that this operation would work successfully in a real event.

Mr. Kowalski thanked everyone for the opportunity to have this exercise. He stated that he will be finishing up the report and sending it to the State.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baldis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m. The motion was seconded, which was unanimously approved.