

From: Susan Mazurski July 20, 2009 9:47:13 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 05/21/2009 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
May 21, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for May 21, 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, Mike Delehanty, William Ketchabaw, Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), Burke LaClair, and Mr. Matheny. Other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was none.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Review, discuss and possibly approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2009

Several edits were made to the minutes.

Mr. Ketchabaw made a motion to approve the March 19, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was unanimously approved.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – Regarding the paramedic intercept service, Mr. Delehanty stated that this service was used as a backup. UCONN will be discontinuing this service to Simsbury; a replacement will need to be put in place. He stated that this service assisted Simsbury 50-70 times during 2008. The UCONN paramedic was on 15 transports with SVA in 2008.

Mr. Delehanty stated that he is in the process of negotiating a paramedic intercept agreement with AMR to replace the contract the Town has had with UCONN since 1997. This negotiation will possibly create an agreement which would account for some mutual aid in other Towns. He stated that AMR has informed him that they have already come to an agreement with Canton for paramedic intercept, which would cover intercepts in Simsbury.

Regarding reimbursement, Mr. Delehanty stated that the ALS intercepts and paramedic services do not pay for themselves. Simsbury can provide paramedic service because of BLS transports. Also, the Town needs to look at two kinds of patients: Medicare patients and then everyone else. The reimbursements are different. Medicare does not recognize the reality of a paramedic intercept; they do not pay for a paramedic intercept. Mr. Delehanty stated that approximately half of the patients are Medicare patients.

Mr. Delehanty stated that Simsbury will soon have an agreement in place for paramedic intercept. He would encourage an extended contract with UCONN because this will be a transition period for Simsbury. He would like the extension to be for a minimum of six months, which he feels is a reasonable timeframe.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that Mr. Delehanty has done a great job while also demonstrating concern for other communities.

Mr. Kowalski questioned if Mr. Delehanty has thought about the next 5-10 years regarding active adult communities and the possibility of more Medicare patients. Mr. Delehanty stated that he is looking into this issue. They see a steady incremental increase in call volume from year to year. More services will possibly be needed, but the ambulance service will have more revenue to provide this service.

In response to Mr. Ketchabaw's question, Mr. Delehanty stated that ALS stands for advanced life support and BLS stands for basic life support.

Ms. Bowman questioned if there would be any funding from the Town in this new paramedic intercept program. Mr. Delehanty stated it will be relatively self sufficient in terms of the paramedic intercept, although if there is a situation with another mutual aid community with sizable shortfalls in reimbursement in their responses to Simsbury, the Town may want to find a way to cover their unreimbursed expenses. He feels that this is where Town funding may come into place.

Mr. Matheny stated that he sits on the Avon/Farmington AMS Advisory Council. He questioned the possibility of overextension of service. Chief Ingvertsen stated that UCONN may still provide service for Farmington.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they are talking about life safety and medical response. He feels that the Town owes it to the citizens to provide this the best way possible. Mr. Delehanty stated that he agrees, which is why he feels there needs to be a transition period.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion to extend the contract with UCONN up to six months as a coverage during this transition period. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion.

Ms. Bowman suggested that there should be an option beyond this 6 months for another 6 months.

Chief Ingvertsen amended his motion to extend the contract with UCONN for a minimum of 6 months up to one year as a coverage during this transition period. Mr. Kowalski amended his second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski stated there is a plan update going on. He asked that everyone check their annexes and update as necessary. He stated that also, if anyone needed ID cards to please let him know.

Regarding recent activities, Mr. Kowalski stated that they had the NIMS 300 Class; 15 people attended this class. The 400 Class is scheduled next month, which will complete the management team for all levels.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they are looking into purchasing some suits for the Police Department. They will also need to purchase some masks because of size issues. They will be using funds from the funding stream to pay for this. This will be a Simsbury purchase, not a State or Federal purchase. He stated that filters are also needed for WMD; these will be coming up for expiration within the next 6 months. The old filters will be used for training purposes.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they are doing a lot of moving in the Fire Department. They will be moving their cots and CD storage from Firetown; they have built a cage in Tariffville Station for this.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they are working on MOU between the Fire Department and the Town. After Mr. Robertson finalizes this, it will go before the Board of Selectmen and the Fire District for approval.

Fire – Mr. Kowalski stated that they will be moving out of the Town Center temporarily. Their timetable is to be out by July 1st. Equipment, dispatch and offices will be moving to the Firetown Station. All of the radios will be up and running prior to the switchover to make sure that

everything is working properly. He stated that they are anticipating a 6 hour power interruption for the main Fire Department tower, although they will be supplying a generator. Mr. Kowalski stated that fuel will be accessible during this time, although they will be replacing the fuel tanks. Once the tanks are out, they will not have any more gasoline. He stated that they are looking into a new system, which may require a key versus a card. This will make billing easier.

Mr. Kowalski showed the Committee members plans for the new firehouse. He stated that they are looking at several options during this time to maintain the same level of protection for the Town.

Mr. Kowalski stated that he had a meeting with the Towns of Bloomfield, Avon and West Hartford regarding their responses to boarder areas. There are three houses in Bloomfield that emergency vehicles have to go through Simsbury to get access to. He stated that, although they need approval from the Fire District, Simsbury should be the primary on a mutual aid call to those three houses. He feels that this is sensible and the right thing to do.

Regarding the Fly-in, Mr. Kowalski stated that this is now a very large undertaking; it has somewhat exceeded their ability. He stated that they will continue to support this event regarding fire safety. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they will need to increase police coverage at this event. Mr. Delehanty stated that there are traffic issues related to this event as well.

Mr. Kowalski stated that a STOC Box has been issued to the Town. This allows plugging in all radios from all agencies into one so everyone can communicate. He feels that a policy needs to be put in place regarding how to respond. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he is working on turning the STOC Box over to the Fire Department

Regarding power line safety, Mr. Kowalski stated that there is a concern regarding emergency vehicles at accident scenes and the importance of maintaining at least one pole distance from the accident and one pole distance from a downed pole or wire. He stated that there is also no need to get the exact pole number. Regarding the recent accident on Route 185, he stated that the guardrail was also energized, which could be a hazard several hundred feet down.

Mr. Ketchabaw stated that they held their annual meeting on May 11th. Information regarding this meeting is on the Fire Department website. He stated that the mill rate stayed the same.

Farmington Valley Health District – Mr. Matheny stated that they receive

20% of their funding from the State. That funding has been cut 44%. He stated that they are unsure of their budget for next year.

Regarding emergency planning for the FVHD, Mr. Matheny stated that they will be modifying their pandemic plan. They will be sending it to all of the Towns as part of their annexes.

Mr. Matheny stated that the swine flu is still making people sick. He stated that the Federal Government will decide if they are going to produce a vaccine for H1N1, although they will still need to decide how to get it to the people. This vaccine will require two shots. Mr. Matheny stated that if anyone is planning to buy a flu vaccine from the FVHD next year, he needs to know this.

Mr. Matheny stated that the FVHD is still participating in regional drills and exercises, although they have not worked out what they will do in case of a State wide hurricane. He stated that they will continue to work on this over the summer months.

Mr. Matheny stated that they have been receiving calls for N95's. He stated that these are not masks; they are respirators, which OSHA has requirements for.

Police – Chief Ingvertsen stated that a new officer has graduated. He is now on the road on the field training program.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they are currently in the process of installing computers in the cruisers. This will give the Officers the ability to tap into the record system in order to write their reports from their cruisers and send them directly into the Records Division. The Officers will not have to come back into the office to do this.

Social Services – Chairman Hampton stated that the Social Services Department will be hosting a shelter operation training workshop on May 28th from 9 a.m. to noon at the Town Hall. All Farmington Valley Towns have been invited. This workshop will be taught by a Red Cross instructor.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Regional Dispatch Center – Chief Ingvertsen stated that Avon, Canton and Simsbury are looking at this issue. He stated that Simsbury is only exploring this idea; no commitment has been made because there are some areas of concern. Simsbury would possibly need to give up some public services that Town residents currently receive. Chief Ingvertsen stated that there is no State of Connecticut Regional Dispatch Center, although there is a regional dispatch center for some smaller Towns. He stated that regional dispatch centers work well in smaller Towns because of the cost

savings.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the State has indicated that there are funds available up to \$250,000 for a Town to go in on the regional dispatch center; the Town would get reimbursed. The State funds \$140,000 for operations costs, which would be split between the Towns. He is not sure if this money will be available next year. He stated that Simsbury's dispatch is currently located in the Town Hall, at no cost to them; a regional dispatch center would be an extra cost to the Town. His biggest concern is that there will not be anyone here after 3 p.m. in the Police Department. He stated that they have a lot of walk-in calls daily.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he is not sure if regionalization is best for Simsbury. The population of this Town is over 23,000; their call intake is over 70,000. He stated that if someone is not happy with Simsbury's dispatch service, they can immediately address the issue. They cannot do this if they are regional.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that Simsbury has already invested a great deal of money in their dispatch center, including renovations to the Town Hall, the cell area, cameras, etc. He is not sure if it is to the benefit of Simsbury to be included in the regional dispatch center. He stated that he will continue to look into what is best for the Town.

Reverse 911 – Mr. Sevetz stated that CROG had issues with the preferred vendor; they did not accept the contract. He is hopeful that Reverse 911 will be up and running soon. They did test their line connections to the three call centers, which are Hartford, New Britain and East Hartford. These are currently working. Training will be held in the next month or so. Mr. Sevetz stated that the State of Connecticut Office of State Wide Emergency Telecommunications is also looking at providing each public safety answering point with Reverse 911 or a similar type of mass calling feature.

Mr. Matheny questioned if there are policies in place regarding mass calling. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they are in the process of drafting these policies. He is hopeful that the policies should be in place by mid-June.

Mr. Kowalski questioned if there was a cost when doing a mass send out. Mr. Sevetz stated that the cost depends on the severity of the incident, the number of people needing to get notified and what the timeframe is to notify people. Mr. Kowalski stated that it is a possibility that the budget may need to be enhanced to accommodate this.

Bike Safety Issues on Greenway – Chairman Hampton stated that there was a meeting to discuss issues along the Greenway regarding pedestrian and bike

safety. They also discussed additional signage and painting lines on the trail. They will be moving forward to improve education regarding bike protocol because of the increase traffic and increase number of incidents.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that there will be an officer on the trail soon. They will use this as an educational component also. The Police Department does not have certain authority on the trail, so they will need to educate people to do what is right. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the trail is getting used more and it is difficult to pass on some of the more narrow parts of the trail.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they are working with Tariffville to put up signs stating, "Do Not Let Your Dog Litter" along the new park and down at the Main Street Extension.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Signal Booster Ordinance – Chairman Hampton stated that this was tabled at the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting because there are still questions regarding what the costs will be to businesses. He stated that he will forward the questions and comments to Mr. Kowalski that were brought up at the meeting.

Mr. Kowalski suggested that they consider expanding the envelope size of the building from 10,000 s.f. to 20,000 s.f. He stated that they need to be able to communicate from inside the building to the outside.

Board of Education – Mr. LaClair stated that they have received the School Security Grant, which was a percent of their expenses to secure various doors and to have buzzers system installed. This grant was in the amount of \$41,893. Mr. LaClair stated that the Squadron Line School generator project was approved at the Town meeting. Regarding the Tariffville School, work will start in June and will finish prior to the start of the new school year.

Chairman Hampton stated that there is a group of residents in Tariffville who are concerned about the liquor store that is moving at 31 Winthrop with another liquor store coming in. There is a possibility that some of these residents may go to the State Liquor Control Commission to address some of the safety concerns that they have.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he would like to put a "bridge open" sign up at the Floydville Bridge in order to move traffic back to that area. Many people do not know that the bridge has re-opened. Chairman Hampton stated that he would send out a press release from the First Selectman's office regarding the bridge.

5. ADJOURN

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John K. Hampton