

From: Susan Mazurski September 28, 2009 10:43:22 AM  
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 07/16/2009 APPROVED  
To: SimsburyCT\_SafetyMin  
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE  
July 16, 2009

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for July 16, 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: Kevin Kowalski, Peter Ingvertsen, Mike Delehanty, Mickey Lecours-Beck, William Ketchabaw, Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), Selectman Hensley, Mr. Holden, 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 May 21, 2009

Several edits were made to the minutes.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to approve the May 21, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was unanimously approved.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – Mr. Delehanty stated that the paramedic backup regarding AMR is undergoing negotiations; an agreement should be approved soon. He stated that they did receive a discount for mutual aid communities. Reimbursement for paramedic services will leave a shortfall for each intercept. Going forward, they will discuss utilizing funds that would have been used to pay the UCONN paramedic service in order to decrease this loss.

Chief Ingvertsen questioned if there was a flat rate charge to the ambulance association. Mr. Delehanty stated that there was not. He stated that there is a \$315 charge for each intercept for Medicare patients; this is for about one half of the calls they receive. Medicare does not recognize paramedic intercepts. There are approximately 15-20 of these calls per year. Although this is not a significant amount of money, it is not an insignificant amount either.

Ms. Bowman questioned if UCONN had given them the additional six month extension. Chairman Hampton stated that this Committee recommended up to a one-year extension to the Board of Selectmen. He stated that UCONN has agreed to this.

Mr. Ketchabaw questioned if the contract with AMR has performance standards for response times. Mr. Delehanty stated that it did not; this is typical of a mutual aid agreement. They will provide this service as available. Mr. Delehanty stated that the Fire Department no longer has gasoline or diesel available during construction. They are trying to make arrangements to get fuel from the Town Highway Department. As of yesterday, the Highway Department stated that they can get their fuel from them on an interim basis. He asked that the Public Safety Committee make a recommendation at the next Board of Selectmen meeting that this be approved. He stated that they will reimburse them for the cost of this fuel. The Town would also like to add a surcharge of 20 cents per gallon.

Mr. Roy stated that they did look at charging a flat rate with the number of gallons that the ambulance will use; it will total approximately \$200 per year. Nothing has been finalized as of yet.

Mr. Kowalski stated that it is up to the District; a surcharge has never been charged before. He feels that the ambulance is providing a Town service. He does not feel that there needs to be a charge for that, although it is up to the District. Ms. Bowman agreed. She stated that the ambulance gives service to the Town; the Town is not charged for ambulance service.

Chairman Hampton stated that this issue will be on the agenda at an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting. He will personally be recommending that they waive this surcharge.

Mr. Delehanty stated that the primary issue is to get fuel when needed. Up to this point, they have been buying retail.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the Police Department has used the ambulance service for officers who are ill or when they get hurt. They also use it

for inmates. The ambulance does not charge for this service.

Chief Baldis made a motion to support the Ambulance Association getting fuel at the Town facility and to waive all surcharges in recognition of the services that they provide the Town. Mr. Ketchabaw seconded the motion.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that it is not only the ambulance that is requesting gasoline; Social Services has also requested gas for their dial-a-ride program. There are a number of other groups who are making requests also.

Chief Ingvertsen questioned if the motion should relate to emergency services provided to the Town. Mr. Kowalski stated that fuel that is being used for services to the community is being paid for by tax dollars. He questioned if the tax dollars come from a budget line item or a different entity.

Chief Baldis withdrew his motion. Mr. Ketchabaw withdrew his second to that motion.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion that the Public Safety Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the emergency services agencies, that provide to the Town, access to the fueling system at the highway garage and allow them to participate in fueling their vehicles with the elimination of any surcharge. Mr. Ketchabaw seconded the motion, which was approved. Chief Baldis and Mr. Kowalski abstained.

Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski stated that hurricane awareness has started. Jeff Giddings, Assistant Civil Preparedness Director, will be involved with this program.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the MOU with the Town has been signed with the Fire District, with the Fire District assuming responsibility of the civil preparedness division. He stated that they are actively working on preparing the plan; they will be changing some of the annex titles. He stated that there is an electronic copy out, although he would rather have a hard copy because it is easier to look through. Both the electronic and hard copies are available. Mr. Kowalski encouraged everyone to look at their annexes. He stated that he would also like to have a tabletop to review everyone's responsibilities in the event of an emergency. Chairman Hampton questioned when the last tabletop was. He stated that Mary Glassman would like this tabletop done because there is new staff. Mr. Kowalski stated that the last tabletop was at least three years ago.

Regarding the generator system at Squadron Line, Mr. Holden stated that the bid was awarded. Everything should be completed prior to the start of

school or shortly thereafter. Mr. Kowalski stated that this will be a positive addition to the shelter.

Regarding flu shots and the H1N1 program, Mr. Kowalski stated that the Fire Department has been holding off ordering anything because they are not sure exactly what needs to be ordered. Mr. Matheny stated that he has put in the order for the Fire Department. He believes that in the fall, there will be a special vaccine available for this new virus. The Federal Government will probably be purchasing this vaccine. Within the next month, they will be deciding how much to order, how to distribute it and what the priority groups are. He stated that this is in addition to the regular vaccines. He stated that as the Federal Government makes these decisions, they will move forward with a more detailed plan.

Mr. Holden suggested including a mass vaccination into the tabletop. Mr. Kowalski stated that although this is a good idea, he cannot incorporate enough of the divisions of people to do this. He stated that this could be a separate exercise.

Regarding the Town wide repeater, Mr. Kowalski stated that while the firehouse is under construction, they have maintained this. They are also ordering suits; they are replacing some of their equipment because things are starting to expire. He is looking to the State to see if they will fund the replacement of this equipment, although no one has made any final decisions. He stated that they do have a purchase order that they are processing and the appropriate equipment will be purchased.

Fire – Chief Baldis stated that they are underway with the construction project of the Main Station. They have officially moved the district offices and the dispatch operation to the Firetown Station. They did not have a loss of communication during this process. He stated that they will continue to maintain the communication system behind the Main Station on the tower, as well as the apparatus maintenance facility, during the construction project. He stated that the Fire District is preparing for the demolition of the buildings; fencing will be installed next week. He stated that there is currently a responding pumper at the Main House. Once the fencing is put in place, the pumper will be moved to a garage at Ensign Bickford.

Regarding the fuel issue, Chief Baldis stated that part of this project is to upgrade the fuel depot, which will be diesel fuel. This project should be completed shortly, at which time they will have functioning diesel fuel dispensing capabilities.

Regarding the numbers up project, Chief Baldis stated that Sean Barrett, a Boy Scout and Junior Firefighter would like to take on this project.

Sean Barrett stated that he will be inspecting houses in Simsbury to make sure their house number is clearly visible from the street. He stated that this will benefit the Fire Department, the Police Department and the Ambulance Association because they can identify the exact address in an emergency. He is here before the Public Safety Committee to see if there are any funds available for the materials needed for this project. He stated that he and other Boy Scouts will be doing this project together. He will also be asking local businesses for help and donations.

Chairman Hampton commended Sean Barrett for this great initiative. He questioned what the cost for this project might be. Sean Barrett stated that he would need \$100 to get started. He will then be going to local businesses to see if they can donate materials or sell materials at a discounted rate. Chairman Hampton stated that this Committee will recommend funding for this project.

Chief Ingvertsen recommended and encouraged all of the Boy Scouts that would be working on this project to obtain a Town ID badge so residents would know who they were when they knock on doors. Mr. Ketchabaw suggested also sending out a press release regarding this project.

Ms. Bowman suggested that the emergency services in Town could help point the Boy Scouts to the certain areas of Town that have the most houses and businesses without numbers. She questioned if the Boy Scouts would be putting the numbers up for residents who ask.

Mr. Barrette stated that he is not sure if his son can do this project for \$100 only, although he feels that this would be a good place to start. He stated that the boys would be starting their project in Tariffville; they will be walking around to see what is needed and would then spread out to other parts of Town.

Ms. Bowman asked that the Boy Scouts, for safety reasons, use the buddy system. The boys should never go out alone.

Selectman Hensley stated that he believes the boys will find a lot of houses and businesses without numbers. Local businesses may want to donate money or materials. He feels that this is a very important project. He stated that people should be reminded of the Town ordinance regarding house and business identification. This is something that could be put in the press release also.

Chief Baldis stated that this project is important and much needed. He is hoping that by heightening awareness, people will do this on their own.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion that the Public Safety Subcommittee supports this initiative and recommends funding for this worthwhile project. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Chairman Hampton thanked Sean Barrett for his work.

Chief Baldis stated that they have gotten a number of calls regarding kids jumping from the Drake Hill Bridge. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the number of calls is not a significant increase from past years, although the kids are starting to climb higher.

Police – Chief Ingvertsen stated that the NIMS 400 training is scheduled for September. He stated that Captain Sevetz will be retiring August 1st. He also stated that bear sightings are down, although there is a possibility that they are just not being reported.

Regarding the Talcott Mountain Music Festival, Chief Ingvertsen stated that the concerts did cause some traffic issues; there were approximately 10,000 people at one of the shows. Regarding the Earth, Wind and Fire concert that will be performing at the TMMF, he stated that they will be scheduling a meeting with the organizers regarding staffing. Mr. Kowalski stated that they have not been approached regarding this concert. He is unaware of any special effects. Chief Ingvertsen recommended that Mr. Kowalski attend this meeting.

Regarding the construction on West Street, Selectmen Hensley questioned how the project was going. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he has to remind the workers not to start work until 9 a.m. and that they need to be done working by 4 p.m. He stated that the workers always seem to try and stay longer. He stated that the steel plates in the road are also slowing vehicles down. Selectmen Hensley questioned when the intersection would be closing. Chief Ingvertsen stated that, to his knowledge, the intersection would not be closing. Once the project is completed, there will be a new traffic light and new sidewalks. The new walk lights will also be audible.

Social Services – Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they hosted a shelter operations workshop. She stated that this was well attended; people came from other surrounding Towns. This was a successful event.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that Family Day will be held tonight at Simsbury Farms. This event is sponsored by the Social Services Department as well as the Recreation and Police Departments. They are expecting a lot of residents to attend.

Regarding the Rails to Trails, Mr. Roy stated that the gates at Hazel Meadow will be up next month. They have been working with the Farmington

Valley Trails Council on this. This is a great method of slowing children down before crossing this private driveway. He stated that they are also going to be looking at the pavement on the trail. The Town is going to try and roll this into the pavement management program for the roads. Mr. Roy stated that the retaining wall construction on Hedgehog Lane will begin next week. The road will be shut down between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., although an open lane will be left open for emergency access.

Chairman Hampton stated that Mr. Ketchabaw has been given the 2009 Hometown Hero award. He has been honored for his great service to the Town.

### 3. ADJOURN

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was unanimously approved.