

From: Susan Mazurski January 24, 2011 4:12:52 PM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 11/18/2010 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
November 18, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for November 18, 2010 was called to order at 7:00 a.m. at the Training Room at the Main Fire Station in Simsbury. The following members of the sub-committee were present: Peter Ingvertsen, Geoff Giddings, Kevin Kowalski, Mickey Lecours-Beck, William Ketchabaw, Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), James Baldis, Tom Cooke, Tom Roy and Burke LeClair. Other interested parties were also present. Aging and Disability

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Review, discuss and possibly approve minutes from the Special Meeting on September 24, 2010

Mr. Ketchabaw made a motion to approve the September 24, 2010 minutes as written. Ms. Lecours-Beck seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance

There was no report.

Civil Preparedness

Mr. Kowalski stated that they are working on the EOP; this will be a major revision which will be easier to read. This document will be fully electronic. He stated that the EMP grant has been approved, although funds have not been transferred as of yet. There is a question regarding having a line item in the budget for a pass through for training. He stated that this would be very helpful to have.

Ms. Lecours-Beck suggested going to the Board of Finance to set up a special account for this purpose.

Fire

Chief Baldis stated that they had their open house and fire prevention activities. He stated that the schools did a great job with their drill procedures. The open house was very well attended also.

Farmington Valley Health District

Mr. Matheny stated that the FVHD does have some funding that they will use when working with the host Town for a mass vaccination facility. The host Town is Simsbury. He stated that they will be having a table top exercise; money is available for reimbursement.

Police

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the Lieutenant's positions have been made. One Lieutenant will be in charge of the Support Section and the other will be in charge of Patrol Operations. He stated that last week testing was completed for the Sergeant's position, although they still need to have interviews. Entry level exams for Officers will take place for Certified Officers, which will get the Officers on the road quicker with less cost to the Town. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the Police Department, along with Tom Roy and the Library Board, gave a dispatcher's exam. They had 132 applicants for 2 positions; interviews will be held on November 30th.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that phone service for routine lines at the Town Hall were interrupted several weeks ago, although 911 was working. He stated that dispatch calls went to the Granby dispatch. The IT Department worked very quickly to get everything transferred to Granby.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the graduated class for the Citizens Academy will hear a presentation by Henry Lee. This will be held on January 7th. Mr. Lee will be putting on a demonstration and talking about his book. He stated that this will be a graphic presentation. The event will be held at the high school.

In response to a question by Chairman Hampton, Chief Ingvertsen stated that

the injured officer is still out. He has not yet been released by the doctors to come back to work.

Social Services

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they get old cell phones donated to them from residents because the phones are programmed for 911. She stated that when testing these phones and dialing 911, sometimes Simsbury dispatch answers and sometimes Granby dispatch answers. Mr. Kowalski stated that this is because it depends on the phone carrier.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they have begun the Energy Assistance Program for this year. They saw approximately 85 people in one day from Simsbury. She stated that close to 300 households were eligible for the program last year; there may be more of a need this year. She stated that the food programs are very high; they have about 50 people waiting at Eno for bread on a regular basis. She stated that it is because of so many generous people in Town that they are able to meet this need.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they continue to work on the "No Phone Zone" program. They have received many signed forms from school principals.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that Ms. Lecours-Beck has been working diligently to help keep residents warm and fed. He stated that the Turkey Trot was recently held. Mr. Roy and the school system donated the trucks that were used.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the Fire Department sponsored a food drive during Simsbury Celebrates last year, although they did have some difficulties. He stated that they would like to help again this year, although not during the Simsbury Celebrates event. He stated that they would like to do a general collection over a period of a week. In order to generate more involvement, Chief Ingvertsen suggested that they send a cruiser and fireman out to homes to pick up the donations.

Regarding parking at Central School, Mr. LeClair stated that they had a meeting and now have a plan in place, which is to keep the gravel portion of the parking area open. They have asked faculty to park in this area, although once the snow falls, the road from Plank Hill will need to be closed.

Ed LaMontagne, Aging and Disability Commission, stated that an email went out Town wide regarding the Numbers Up Program. He stated that they are helping to facilitate this process. They did put a copy of this email into the Senior Communicator, which goes out to several thousand people.

Mr. LaMontagne stated that the Aging and Disability Commission's Accessibility Subcommittee is doing a study regarding buildings in Town being in compliance with ADA. He stated that this study will take approximately 6 months to complete. They will be formulating a report to the Town indicating areas that are and are not complaint.

NEW BUSINESS

Set 2011 Calendar and location: January 20; March 17; May 19; July 21; September 15 and November 17

Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve the 2011 Meeting Schedule as presented. Chief Baldis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ketchabaw suggested having next year's meetings at different facilities around Town. The Committee agreed.

Simsbury Celebrates

Mr. Kowalski stated that the parade will be the same size and length as last year. They will be parking the fire apparatus on Route 10 heading north after the parade. He stated that it is still an issue regarding the transition between shutting down Route 10 for the parade and people walking down Route 10 after the parade as a group down to Iron Horse Boulevard. The two throughways are blocked for approximately 10 minutes. Chief Ingvertsen stated that there is no way to change this, although they did add another Officer to block Iron Horse a little earlier.

Mr. Kowalski stated that this is a very big event. There were approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people in attendance last year. He stated that there will be fireworks again this year. The permit is through and fireworks have been ordered.

Chief Baldis stated that they do man their apparatus for immediate response during this event. They also have a standby crew that is ready to respond, which is maintained through the fireworks presentation.

Discuss fallen trees on private roads that block access to multiple residences

Chief Baldis stated that approximately one month ago, a tree came down across Talcott Acres, which is a private Condominium Association. This occurrence completely isolated the complex. The Police did respond, although because it was on private property, the incident had to be turned over to the property management. The response time for this could not be secured. He stated that the question has been raised that when there is an

isolated situation where a tree comes down with wires not being an issue, who would be responsible to take action regarding the situation. He stated that although this is only one incident, other areas in Town could be affected in this way also.

Mr. Roy stated that his department could be called although their response time would be approximately 45 minutes at the most. He stated that they have a front end loader in their tree truck that could assist them in similar situations. Chief Baldis stated that taxpayers should not have to pay for this work. Mr. Kowalski stated that people on a private road still pay taxes. The Town needs to do what is right and get the proper people out for this type of situation. Mr. Roy stated that his department would move the fallen tree out of the way and leave the chipping and cutting to the Association.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he could call the Condominium Association, and if there was no reasonable response, the Public Works Department would be called to come move the fallen tree. Mr. Cooke stated that he will contact the Town Attorney regarding this issue. The most important issue would be to get the neighborhood opened up in order to get emergency vehicles though. Mr. Cooke stated that the Police Department would call the Public Works Department in this type of situation. They will then call the Association. If they cannot get the tree moved within a reasonable timeframe, they will be notified that the Town will move the tree and the Association will be billed for the work. The Public Safety Subcommittee agreed that the calls would be made in this order.

Winthrop Street traffic study

Chairman Hampton stated that this is a big issue in Tariffville; Winthrop Street continues to be a concern.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that there are several options that need to be looked at that were developed by the State Department of Transportation. They will not move forward unless the Committee and Town agree on a solution.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the residents in this area are waiting for an answer. Regarding the option of a one way street, he stated that this is not safe or timely for emergency responses. He stated that although they do have trucks in the Village, other trucks respond from other stations. Some of the apparatus is approximately 40 feet long; making the appropriate turns is impossible in some of these options.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the closing of the Floydville Bridge educated motorists that there is another way to avoid the bridge to get where they

want to go. Traffic increased in this area and has not decreased since the bridge was reopened. Another issue is the attitudes in people's driving. He feels that it does not matter the option that is picked; people's attitudes need to change. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the first step should be enforcement. He suggested putting speed trailers up so people can be aware of their speed. He feels that when people see how fast they are going, it will make a difference.

Chief Baldis stated that he would not support a one-way street in this area.

Mr. Kowalski stated that there needs to be a study on Route 189, which is the root cause of this issue. He would like the Town to solicit a study from the State. The State did acknowledge that there were issues with Route 189. Chairman Hampton stated that he would discuss this issue with Mary Glassman.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion that the Public Safety Subcommittee is not in favor of the remedies presented at this time, although they are looking at other alternatives to facilitate slower traffic and volume control in and around Winthrop Street. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Update on traffic control at intersection of Hopmeadow and West Streets

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the intersection, with the new improvements, is working well. He stated that they are trying to get the existing traffic light working at the church and Boy Scout Hall to have a few more seconds before the light changes on Drake Hill Road on Sunday when church is letting out. The State feels that this would be expensive and cannot be done, although they could change the timing of the light Monday through Sunday, not Sunday only. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he will continue to talk to the State regarding this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. The next meeting in January would be held at the Main Firehouse.