

From: Susan Mazurski January 23, 2009 2:38:18 PM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 11/20/2008
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
November 20, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for November 20, 2008, 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, Peter Ingvertsen, Lucille Bowman and John Hampton (Chairman). Mike Long, Bob Hensley, Burke LaClair, Brandon Robertson and other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was none.

Chairman Hampton asked that a motion be made to include the proposed Ordinance for sexually orientated businesses on the agenda.

Mr. Sevetz made a motion to include the proposed Ordinance for sexually orientated businesses on the agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

I. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – There was no report.

Civil Preparedness – There was no report.

Fire – Chief Baldis stated that they are currently focusing on the Simsbury Celebrates Event, which will be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Their biggest concern is “kid control” with the nighttime events and with

the moving of apparatus through the area. Chief Baldis stated that he has been working with Gerry Toner and Peter Sevetz regarding putting up barricades for certain areas of congestion to control the crowds. There will also be fireworks held at the Simsbury Celebrates Event; they will have the standard stand-by crew at this event.

Chief Baldis stated that in the past, they have had a social for visiting department after the parade. This year, this social will be held prior to the parade. There will be a lot of moving apparatus during this time.

Chief Baldis stated his concerns regarding alternate uses of heating sources for the winter. They are trying to get the word out through public safety messages in terms of being extra careful. They do not want to see an increase in emergencies because of this, although there is the potential.

Farmington Valley Health District – There was no report.

Police - Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have recently had one Police Officer retire after 26 years of service. They have already hired a replacement for him.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that there are 2 new officers who are currently on their own. There are also 2 openings left for officers; offers have been made to 2 individuals in order to fill these spots. There is one officer that is currently in the Academy; he will graduate in December. He will then have 14 weeks of field training before he goes out on the road.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that seat belt checks are going on now. He is please that there is a 92% - 95% compliance rate. He stated that he wishes that this compliance rate would be the same for cell phones in use for people driving, although it is not.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the crosswalk at Route 315 will be increased so people have time to make it all the way across the road. There are new regulations on the amount of time the walkway will stay on "walk". Also, the no right turn on red sign will be removed from Drake Hill and Route 10 because this was causing backups. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have worked diligently with the State regarding readjusting the traffic lights at Stratton Brook and Route 10. He stated that most of the lights are synchronized with each other, although the light on Nod Road and Route 185 is not synchronized with the rest of the lights. Because of Route 44 being a single lane, they have increased the cycle on Nod Road so it remains 120 seconds red for Nod Road. He hopes this will alleviate some of the problems.

Chairman Hampton stated that the West Street and Route 10 intersection will be reconfigured, although there have been some concerns regarding people crossing at that intersection. He questioned if there were any temporary solutions that could be done in this area. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have applied to the State to look at the feasibility of placing a crosswalk from the entrance to One West Street to the Congregational Church. This was denied because there are other crosswalks in this area and because of the liability. He stated that the Town is looking to have a new crosswalk installed in this area.

Peter Sevetz stated that the Town of Simsbury was awarded a device which allows radio interoperability. They should be receiving the device within the next 2 weeks.

Regarding reverse 911, Mr. Sevetz stated that the vendor has rectified all of the issues and training is scheduled for December 9th through December 12th. He anticipates that the reverse 911 system will be up and running by the end of the year.

Regarding bi-directional radio and public safety ordinance, Mr. Sevetz stated a draft ordinance was sent to the Town Attorney for his review. This should come back before this Committee and be ready to go before the Board of Selectmen for their review and possible implementation by the end of the year. Chief Baldis suggested that the draft ordinance be reviewed and discussed by this Committee via e-mail so they would not have to call a special meeting. Chairman Hampton agreed.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the Simsbury School System has received another Federal grant for security at the schools. These funds will be used for the improvement of security in the school system.

Social Services – There was no report.

Board of Education – Burke LaClair stated that they have submitted a second round of grant applications; they are still waiting to hear back regarding this. He stated that they are moving forward with the implementation of the door and hardware changes in order to change some of their policies.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review, discuss and possibly approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2008

Several edits were made to the September 18, 2008 minutes.

Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve the September 18, 2008 minutes as

amended. Mr. Sevetz seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. MEETING SCHEDULE OF 2009

Review, discuss and possibly approve the schedule for meetings for 2009 as follows: March 19; May 21; July 16; September 17 and November 19

Ms. Bowman stated that the January meeting date was missing from the 2009 meeting schedule. Chairman Hampton stated that they would add January 22, 2009 to the meeting schedule.

Chief Baldis made a motion to approve the 2009 meeting schedule as amended. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. PROPOSED ORDINANCE: SEXUALLY ORIENTATED BUSINESSES

Chairman Hampton stated that Simsbury does not have any Regulations regarding sexually oriented businesses in Town. There are public safety implications of having these businesses in Town.

The Public Safety Committee did receive a draft ordinance for their review. Chairman Hampton stated that this Committee may want to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the presence of a business of this kind in Simsbury moving forward.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that this draft ordinance looks to be a well established ordinance from another Town. He stated that he feels this ordinance puts the responsibility on Mr. Peck and the Planning Department.

Mr. Robertson stated that someone posted a sign that a sexually orientated business was coming soon to Simsbury, although it did turn out to be a hoax. He stated that this pointed to a hole in the regulatory structure with respect to regulating these types of businesses in Simsbury. This proposed ordinance is a draft that the Town Attorney sent to the First Selectman. Mr. Robinson suggested that the Public Safety Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen in order for them to discuss and edit this proposed ordinance.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion that the Public Safety Committee forward to the Board of Selectmen the idea and philosophy regarding that the sexually orientated businesses ordinance be adopted in the Town of Simsbury with reference to the submitted draft ordinance from the Town Attorney with special adoption to the Town of Simsbury. Chief Baldis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. ADJOURN

Ms. Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 a.m. The motion was seconded and was unanimously approved.