

From: Susan Mazurski July 21, 2011 8:57:42 AM  
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 05/19/2011 Approved  
To: SimsburyCT\_SafetyMin  
Cc:

Town of Simsbury – Public Safety Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2011

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Safety Committee was called to order at 7:05 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: Chair John Hampton, Board Members Chief James Baldis, Lucille Bowman, Chief Peter Ingvertsen, William Ketchabaw, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Richard Matheny and Kevin Kowalski. Also present were Lieutenant Nick Boulter, Burke LaClair, Tom Roy, Carol Brochu (CL&P) and Thomas Cooke.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were no speakers.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Baldis moved the approval of the minutes and Ms. Lecours-Beck seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

#### UPDATES AND REPORTS

Civil Preparedness: Mr. Kowalski raised a concern about concerts at the Performing Arts Center with crowds anticipated to be 5,000 or more and the need for a command post to ensure public safety at events of this size. Chief Ingvertsen agreed that with concerts of this size responsibility for making decisions about public safety in the event of dangerous weather or any other significant public safety issue needed to be clearly identified. Mr. Kowalski noted that the cost of the command center was \$150 per event. After further discussion, the Committee concluded that the issue of establishing a command center would be included in the public gathering

permit process and that there might be other circumstances where a command center would be appropriate for gatherings of a different size or nature. Ms. Bowman also noted that the Safety Committee had previously recommended that an ambulance be available for events with 2,500 or more attendees. Mr. Cooke agreed to take the issue up with the Performing Arts Center Board to ensure that the PAC Board's terms sheet would require promoters to pay for a command center for concerts where 5,000 or more attendees were expected.

Fire: Chief Baldis reported that the Simsbury Fire District held its annual meeting on May 9, 2011 and that the District's budget and mill rate were approved. He noted that the District needed to replace a pumper, self-contained breathing apparatus and protective gear.

Farmington Valley Health District: Mr. Matheny informed the Committee that the Farmington Valley Health District offices were moving to 95 River Road in Canton. He also described numerous improvements to the Health District's web portal. Mr. Matheny also described changes to the State Health Department's approach to mass vaccinations and a Center for Disease Control requirement that the District work with police departments to develop security plans, including school-located vaccination plans in the event of a pandemic. Mr. Kowalski questioned whether or not the CDC initiative affected the existing small pox plan and Mr. Matheny responded that the small pox plan was still in effect. The CDC is requiring a separate security plan for traffic and supply transportation.

Police: Chief Ingvertsen reported that the Department was funding three new bicycles at a cost of \$2,500 per bike. Chief Ingvertsen and Lieutenant Boulter indicated that the Department was purchasing two radar trailers at a cost of \$8,000 each. A discussion ensued concerning the use of radar trailers as a deterrent to speeding and the advantages and disadvantages to using permanently installed radars. Mr. Roy noted that the Committee could anticipate an increasing number of requests for radar trailers over time.

Mr. Kowalski asked about the use and availability of emergency phone boxes. The Chief noted that these cost \$50 per month and that over time, most have been eliminated.

Mr. Hampton congratulated the Police Department on its pending certification by CALEA. The Chief noted that representatives of the Department would travel to Ohio on July 29 to be formally certified.

Chief Ingvertsen also described a very successful program for graduates of the citizen police academy which had Dr. Lee as the featured speaker. Over 115 people attended this excellent program.

Social Services: Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that demands for fuel during the heating season exhausted the Social Services' \$20,000 fuel allowance fund and that it would be moving to a new program which would pay ½ of the fuel cost. She noted that there were 4 evictions in Simsbury in the prior week, and that one of the sites was in such bad shape that all of the movers became ill.

Ms. Lecours-Beck expressed concern that during a fire drill at Eno Memorial Hall, seniors using the exercise facility did not know what to do. She asked for different signs so that seniors would know where to go. A discussion ensued concerning alternative methods for ensuring that senior citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency. Mr. Roy stated that directions could be included as part of a signage package.

Ms. Lecours-Beck and Mr. Kowalski stated that they had negotiated a revised agreement with the Red Cross for its services in the event of a crisis. The changes would give the Town the right to determine which facilities would be opened in the event of an emergency and for how long. Ms. Lecours-Beck indicated that the agreement would be forwarded to Mr. Cooke for his review.

Board of Education: Mr. Burke had nothing new to report.

New Business: Mr. Hampton explained that Simsbury residents were expressing concerns about the number of races being held in town for not-for-profits, noting that the races make it difficult for residents to get out of their driveways. Chief Ingvertsen concurred that there had been a growth in the number of such events and that both residents and businesses were hampered by the races. A discussion followed concerning the challenges presented by the number of races (estimated at 5 to 6 by Lieutenant Boulter), the cost to the town for staffing the races and the impact on neighbors and businesses. Mr. Hampton recommended that the issue be referred to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Lecours-Beck moved for adjournment and the motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.