

From: Susan Mazurski March 21, 2012 5:12:29 PM
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Cc:

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE - ADOPTED MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 19, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Hampton, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order on Thursday, January 19th, at 7:03AM, in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were also present: Chief Ingvertsen, Simsbury Police Department, Chief Baldis, SVFD, Lucille G. Bowman, SVAA, Geoffrey Giddings, Civil Defense, William Ketchabaw, SVFD, Micheline Lecours-Beck, Social Services, and Sean Askham, Board of Selectmen. Also in attendance were Mary Glassman, First Selectmen, Lisa Heavner, Board of Selectmen, Joseph Loewy, Simsbury Housing Authority, Jim Clifton, WPCA, Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Mark Massaro, Account Executive CL&P, Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works, and Burke LaClair, Board of Education.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joseph Loewy, Executive Director of Simsbury Housing Authority, addressed the Subcommittee in order to give a special thank you to those in Emergency Services who kept in communication during and after Storm Alfred. Mr. Loewy said communication was key with regards to people feeling comfortable during that period. He said the Housing Authority found things that they will be able to improve on going forward, but again expressed his thanks. Mr. Hampton thanked Mr. Loewy for his work and service.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 15 (REGULAR MEETING) & DECEMBER 15, 2012 (SPECIAL MEETING)

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting minutes, with one change presented by Chief Baldis. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Ketchabaw made a motion to approve the December 15, 2011 Special Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Giddings and

was passed unanimously.

2. REVIEW OF DECEMBER 15, 2011 PUBLIC HEARING

Correspondence - Mr. Hampton mentioned the correspondence received from the First Selectmen's office including articles and information from other towns with regards to their storm response. Mr. Hampton also mentioned constituent correspondence received and distributed to the Subcommittee.

3. REVIEW OF RESPONSE REPORTS

Mr. Hampton outlined the reports included in the package; Witt Report, Two Storm Panel Report, Governor's Initiatives, First Selectman Glassman, Selectmen Hampton and Heavner and Representative Schofield report, and Storm Alfred After Action Report.

Two Storm Panel Report - Mr. Roy mentioned an interesting initiative referenced in the report. This was a 5-year program, through Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), to fund private property tree removals or hazardous trees, which Mr. Roy thought they should look at as a Town. While they have stayed away from this in the past, it might be something to start considering. Responding to a question from Mr. Ketchabaw, Mr. Roy spoke about the necessity of a CL&P first responder being there to identify a wire as safe or unsafe. Mr. Ketchabaw said it was one of the biggest things they need to pursue and he thinks it really hurt us after the storm. Mr. Roy said, yes, we were crippled without someone being able to identify the wires as safe and we would have gone outside to hire an independent contractor to do the work if necessary. Mr. Cooke voiced his support on this issue, saying this was a bottle-neck that could be remedied and if it were, it would be a huge step forward. Chief Ingvertsen said while our CL&P representative was eager, they did not know Simsbury like Mark Massaro, CL&P, does. He was wondering how we can go about getting Mr. Massaro to be our liaison for the next storm. Mr. Massaro said CL&P is looking to assign a dedicated liaison to the Town, but they have not made those assignments yet. Mr. Massaro said he will then work with that person to make the process as efficient as possible. Chief Baldis said that even if there was an alternate representative, they could get involved, attend meetings and get the depth of knowledge needed. Mr. Giddings asked Mr. Massaro about GPS in all the CL&P vehicles. Mr. Massaro said they do have GPS in their vehicles and can tell where vehicles are, but with out-of-state vehicles, they do not have that capability, which is now being researched.

Ms. Glassman thanked everyone again for their hard work. She said Northeast Utilities had a group of Mayors, including herself, go to the Emergency Operations Center and showed them the capabilities within their war room. Ms. Glassman said they do have the GPS tracking devices that they can see on a map in their Emergency Operations Center and they have real-time information regarding power outages. Ms. Glassman told Mr. Massaro this

information would have been great for Simsbury to have and hopefully they can work on finding a way to get their captured data distributed. Mr. Massaro said they are already changing the distribution of their information in order to get more Account Executives this real-time information. Ms. Glassman gave him some follow up questions in order to find out when will this technology be available to us and what capabilities we will need to coordinate with CL&P. Ms. Glassman said we are in Budget Process now and there will be things that need to be done in response to the Storm, so these recommendations need to be put into the process now. She asked the Subcommittee for an action report saying what needs to be done, who's responsibility it is to do it and what the time frame is to get it done. She said this needs to be done in order to take full advantage of the reports produced and to get the necessary changes made.

Mr. Ketchabaw asked if anything was happening with regards to the communications companies. Mr. Massaro said he has not heard of anything, but they are wondering what is happening with them because a lot of times CL&P had to wait for the communications companies to deal with their poles prior to moving forward. Mr. Giddings said he thinks the communications companies slipped under the radar in all of this and there was a huge public safety issue with a lack of telephone service. He said while AT&T made an effort with getting generators up, he thinks Comcast made no effort whatsoever. Ms. Glassman said that was identified in the Witt Report and it is being addressed. Mr. Roy mentioned while there was a tree trimming budget, nothing was submitted from the communications companies.

Chief Ingvertsen added to this topic by saying they had to find other ways to communicate with the public, besides the phone. He said they are looking for ways to get the word out and it is one of the main goals. Chief Ingvertsen discussed the potential for getting a dedicated radio station that would be accessible through an AM station. He then said they are looking into hiring an IT specialist that will be able to focus on communicating with the public through FaceBook and other technology channels. Mr. Cooke said that limited communication was a huge challenge during the storm and they were really missing the direct contact with the Citizens of Simsbury. Mr. Cooke said a radio tower is being looked into and possibly expanding the reverse 911 system. He said there will need to be a massive education campaign for the citizens of Simsbury so they are aware of their best options to get information in a crisis situation. Potential ways to get people to enlist in their reverse 911 program was discussed, one of which was piggy-backing off of the Board of Education's database. Ms. Heavner spoke about the importance of keeping in touch with the public. Ms. Heavner also spoke about erecting more A-Frame boards during a situation like Storm Alfred as a way to provide information. Ms. Glassman referenced the Emergency Operations Manual and the importance of having it updated and asked for a summary that could be distributed to the staff. Ms. Glassman

also spoke about deciding who should be in the Emergency Operations Center during a time of crisis. She said it had been discussed that it should be a small designated group and then have a briefing after to inform others.

Ms. Glassman then said that the Public Safety Subcommittee should be reappointed. Mr. Hampton said he was not sure if there was a dictate on who should serve on the subcommittee. Ms. Glassman said there were none.

Chief Baldis readdressed the previously discussed safeing issue. He wanted to make sure they were not going to be safeing wires, no matter if it is firefighter, policeman or public works employee. He wanted to adamantly support this stance, and that the Subcommittee should make that clear as a group. Chief Ingvertson agreed and said it is a very dangerous thing and that he fully agrees with Chief Baldis. Mr. Cooke asked Mr. Massaro to facilitate the organization of the CL&P first responders who would be in charge of identifying live wires. Mr. Roy seconded that thought, also saying how dangerous it can be without the proper training. Mr. Massaro said he will pass those thoughts along to his Operations Crew.

Chief Baldis spoke about the importance of having a single source regarding road access and the issues that come with identifying what constitutes a road closure. Chief Ingvertsen said it is possible to do this and they are looking into getting that accomplished. Mr. Roy spoke about the process used with Storm Alfred and spoke about the issues faced due to lack of resources, training and people. They are looking at best practices so they can improve going forward. Ms. Heavner commented that this brings up issue of keeping up with technology and how we should be utilizing the most recent technology. She wants to make this a priority for the Town, while recognizing technology limitations and being prepared when/if they fail.

Storm Alfred After Action Report - Mr. Giddings said this report was created mostly for internal use in order to examine what was done well and what needed to be improved upon moving forward. Mr. Giddings said there are two things that did not happen that could happen with future storms that need to be recognized; (1) below freezing temperatures, and (2) the river could flood. He said the second point is why we need to look at generator power and showers at Tariffville. He also reiterated the need for updated technology. Mr. Giddings revisited the topic of a Town Radio Station and said Kevin Kowalski negotiated a great rate for a test system for the month of February. Possibilities with regards to a radio station were discussed. Chief Ingvertsen said that will need to be considered when preparing budgets. Mr. Cooke said he thinks everyone will support this initiative due to the importance of communication to the public. Ms. Heavner said she will certainly support this, as it is a priority. Ms. Lecours-Beck mentioned the possibility of purchasing AM radios for seniors.

4. 2012-2013 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Chief Ingvertsen mentioned the following items he had so far for the Public Safety budget:

- Annual renewal fee for the Everbridge System: \$4,500
- Magnets containing emergency phone numbers for residents: \$1,930
- Calendars, containing information of what to do in an emergency and storm
- Civil Preparedness Operating Budget: \$1,900 (which is annual fee)
- Cost to connect the Town Hall and Main Fire House: \$2,500
- Town wide radio-phone line is: \$600
- Purchase of three (3) more LED signage trailers: approximately \$50,000 (under CNR)

Tom Roy added the following items:

- Rewiring generator system for better preparedness in longer outages
- Running conduit up the radio tower at Central School to upgrade communications to fiber
- Basic improvements/upgrades for EOC
- GIS Improvements
- Additional tree trimming/brush removal

Ms. Lecours-Beck added the following items:

- Large magnet containing emergency information designed for seniors
- Addendum/insert to the current Emergency Preparedness Guide
- Signage for the Shelter
- Additional Vests for Shelter staff

All totaled, Ms. Lecours-Beck said her items would be about \$2,000.

Mr. LaClair spoke about some budget related items; he mentioned emergency generator at the high school and at the shared maintenance building next to Public Works and they received a quote for a generator at Tariffville School. He said those are the larger capitol items.

5. REVIEW OF NEXT STEPS/ACTION

Mr. Hampton told the subcommittee members that Ms. Glassman had asked for a paired down list of next steps/action items. Mr. Giddings suggested an off-line meeting with the principle players and then shoot out a draft of the list to the other subcommittee members to see if anything was left off.

Mr. Ketchabaw asked about gas stations getting generators in order to provide fuel to residents faster. Mr. Giddings said he thinks they should speak with the Chamber to see if anything is being done on the front and it would be a slippery slope to get the Town directly involved. Mr. Hampton mentioned there might be legislation in the works that would mandate back-up power for gas stations, but he did not have all of the information.

The placement of seriously ill individuals into the shelters, and alternative options, were discussed. Ms. Heavner suggested the Town Attorney take a look in order to see if we are in compliance and make sure there are no issues there.

The make-up of the Subcommittee that will be forming the Next Steps Recommendations List was discussed. Then Chief Ingvertsen discussed the EOC Staff List. Mr. Hampton then said they need to also formalize the list of Subcommittee Members in order to reappoint the group. Voting privileges were discussed as well. The make-up of the Subcommittee was discussed further. Chief Baldis said, as a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen, they should really get feedback from them in terms of who they would like to see represented on this Subcommittee. Ms. Heavner said they do need to reappoint at this meeting, as their terms will expire on the coming Monday. She then said they can still make changes, but it would be best to just reappoint the Subcommittee as it currently stands today.

REAPPOINTMENT

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to reappoint the Public Safety Subcommittee as it currently stands. The motion was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen and was passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Baldis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50AM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ketchabaw and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Hampton, Chairman
Clerk

Leslie U. Faraci,