

From: Susan Mazurski May 18, 2012 11:01:09 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 03/15/2012 Approved
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Hampton, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order on Thursday, March 15th, at 7:02 a.m., in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were also present: Chief Ingvertsen, Simsbury Police Department, Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshall, Lucille G. Bowman, SVAA, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Social Services, Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, and Sean Askham, Board of Selectmen. Also in attendance were Burke LaClair, Board of Education, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was no public audience.

PRESENTATION

JEAN RIVARD, MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE, CT NATURAL GAS CORPORATION ON GAS SAFETY AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Mr. Rivard addressed the subcommittee saying he would be providing a high-level view of what they have for their emergency preparedness plans. He said the events this pertains to could be anything from natural weather events, gas leak, third party damages, etc. He continued, in addition to providing information, they are looking to get feedback from the subcommittee in terms of what they can further do to better communicate with Simsbury. Mr. Rivard spoke about their Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) specialists and their role. Mr. Rivard said public safety is paramount and first priority and they can act as technical advisors to the Fire Department in situations. Mr. Rivard then spoke about the multiple isolation valves that allow them to sectionalize the Town and ultimately minimize the loss of supply. They prepare for an outage, Mr. Rivard continued, possibly due to severe cold for multiple days, by maintaining supply and constantly monitoring that supply level. Mr. Rivard stressed the importance of communication with Town services (police, fire, etc.). He

also mentioned the importance of analyzing these weather events after they happen in order to better prepare for future events. Mr. Rivard also spoke of mock drills conducted. Mr. Kowalski asked Mr. Rivard about his familiarity with regards to any expanded gas routes that are being contemplated in Simsbury. Mr. Rivard said they are looking at a few, and when Mr. Kowalski asked about Tariffville, Mr. Rivard said they are looking at that area and trying to figure out how it would work. Mr. Kowalski then asked, in event of wide scale disaster, where gas mains still remain, what type of plan is in effect. Mr. Rivard replied that is all a part of a specific Emergency Preparedness Plan and suggested anyone on the subcommittee come to them (in Milford) so they can show them how they can deal with an event of that magnitude with the use of isolation valves. Mr. Hampton asked Mr. Rivard to email a copy of the map showing all of the gas lines in Simsbury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 19, 2012 (REGULAR MEETING)

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion to approve the January 19, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes, with changes presented. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT & RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012 STORM ALFRED RESPONSE MEETING - CHIEF INGVERTSEN & LIEUTENANT SIFODASKALAKIS

Chief Ingvertsen began by telling the subcommittee that this is the end result after a meeting to break down the final issues that need to be addressed post-Storm Alfred and he distributed a hard copy of the report. Chief Ingvertsen said they had identified communication as being a major concern and he referenced; the AM Radio Station Testing that is being conducted by the Fire District, the Everbridge calling system for general messaging, getting residents to register phone numbers in order to get them on the Town Notification System, purchasing an additional LED sign, and Emergency magnets and booklets to keep phone numbers visible and accessible. Another priority, Chief Ingvertsen continued, is with regards to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), specifically the need to purchase a back-up generator to ensure continued operation. He then referenced the conduit from the Town Hall to the new antenna, which has been completed. Another priority listed was Tariffville School. Chief Ingvertsen referenced the study, currently being conducted by Rich Sawitzke, to consider the school as a possible location for an Emergency Shelter. Chief Ingvertsen said Kevin Kowalski is working to get portable showers that can be used anywhere in Town in the case of emergency (this is not currently in the budget). Chief Ingvertsen continued by stating there are funds in the budget to be put towards a part-time IT employee, supplying technical support to Town Hall and for the GIS development. Chief Ingvertsen then said that Tom Roy is working on the implementation of a GPS mapping system for the Town.

At this point, Mr. Hampton opened the topic up for discussion. Ms. Lecours-Beck asked about the study looking at Tariffville School and the money in the budget allocated for the generator. The type of generator to be purchased (permanent or mobile) was discussed. Mr. LaClair briefly discussed the overall purpose of the study and what they are looking to accomplish. Mr. LaClair said he does not think there is enough money budgeted to purchase a large generator, and the budget, with regards to generator improvements, was further discussed by Mr. LaClair, Mr. Askham, Mr. Cooke and Chief Ingvertsen. Mr. Kowalski said he was just notified that there is funding available, through Home Land Security Grant Funds, that can be used for portable connections. He did not know the details of how much could be available to Simsbury, but he is looking into that now.

AM RADIO TEST REVIEW - KEVIN KOWALSKI

Mr. Kowalski started by saying, the radio was tested in February, and distributed a map outlining where the radio was tested. He spoke about the coverage and scope of the radio and how there is not a spot to place one transmitter and achieve 100% coverage throughout Town. Mr. Kowalski said they are not giving up, but so far, this has been the setback with the low wattage level. He continued by saying they are looking at an option of increasing the watts by getting a license for the purpose of education. By partnering with the school system, they might be able to circumvent the problem, and also allow the school to use it as a training tool. Mr. Roy mentioned the CT School of Broadcasting in Farmington and asked if there was any way to pay them to broadcast an emergency message. Mr. Kowalski said the problem there is that we are trying to get an Isolated Emergency Frequency. Other options Mr. Kowalski is looking into, that might provide a solution, were discussed further. He said it is a work in progress and he hopes to have more to discuss next time.

LEGISLATION FOR ALLOWING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO HOUSE EVACUEES TEMPORARILY DURING DECLARED EMERGENCIES - KEVIN KOWALSKI

Mr. Hampton mentioned that Mr. Kowalski has been working with State Representative Linda Schofield on this issue. Mr. Kowalski said he has been on several conference calls with the Department of Health and they are a bit uneasy about doing legislation. He continued by saying he is still pushing, but he might need this subcommittee's support, as they are getting a lot of pushback. Mr. Kowalski said the State is pushing to work on a Regional scope, which just does not work for Simsbury, for multiple reasons. Chief Ingvertsen said Regionalization just doesn't make sense due to the lengthy distance and other logistics that come along with an emergency situation. This was discussed further by the committee members. Mr. Kowalski said he thinks the State is also getting a little carried away with the amount of services they want to provide, which he sees as problematic.

REVIEW OF MEDICAL DISTRIBUTION - FVHD

Mr. Kowalski reported that the FVHD has asked for help with regards to upgrading the Medical Distribution Plan. In the event of a nerve agent deployment, or a pandemic, Simsbury has a plan in effect, which is being used as a model for the State. It involves planning for distribution of vaccine, or any type of medication that would need to be handed out. Mr. Kowalski expanded on the details of the plan. He said the plan will be reviewed and updated in any way needed, saying the biggest problem would be lack of sufficient security in this type of event, so they are pushing to include assistance from the National Guard into the plan.

OTHER BUSINESS PUBLIC WORKS - Mr. Roy began by saying there is good news and some challenges as well. The good news, he continued, is that CL&P has increased their routine tree trimming efforts (tree limbs directly around the wires) and a significant amount of Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT), looking at an area within 40 feet of historically problematic areas, with a trained arborist, and identify problematic trees. The Town must post notification of the trees that will be removed, which is required by State Law, allowing any concerned citizen to file a protest. Based on this last round of identification of trees to come down, there is someone going around the Musket Trail area with a petition to save the trees along Owens Brook. He said the hearing date will most likely be held on Thursday, March 21. Mr. Roy said if people don't come out in support of the tree removal, it will be difficult for him to allow CL&P to cut them down. Mr. Roy described where these trees are located. Mr. Kowalski asked Mr. Roy to see if they are going to trim on the corner of Great Pond Road and Owens Brook, which is the location that feeds McLean Homes. The Owens Brook trees, and the right-of-ways, were discussed further. Mr. Cooke asked if there was anything the committee could do to show their support of the CL&P efforts with regards to tree trimming.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion that the Public Safety Subcommittee support CL&P's tree trimming campaign in an effort to reduce outages. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Mr. LaClair said they were notified about a training workshop for emergency planning in schools, which will be conducted in April. He asked both Police and Fire to consider sending representatives in order to assemble a team. Mr. LaClair then spoke about the situation at the High School, where some students took some alcohol-based chemicals out of the science classroom and sprayed them onto the floor and other students. He continued by saying the school had to be evacuated and he thinks there are lessons to be learned from the incident.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - Mr. Kowalski followed up with that by saying he would be meeting with the school principals to go over all of the policies and

procedures in effect to work with them as Emergency Responders, in this type of emergency. The “white powder events” were discussed, as there have been multiple recent incidents within the State.

SOCIAL SERVICES - Ms. Lecours-Beck said she is waiting to hear about funding so she can order the magnets and booklets. She said she would like to include the AM station on these materials, but Mr. Kowalski said he wouldn't wait for that. Secondly, Ms. Lecours-Beck said they are developing a neighbor-to-neighbor program to reach the elderly that might be isolated. They are establishing a contact with each house of worship in order to identify/reach a large number of these people. Ms. Lecours-Beck moved on by saying she recently met with the Ladies' Auxiliary, who had identified a need for training, so she has contacted the Red Cross in order to conduct some basic shelter management training. She said the Ladies' Auxiliary had also agreed to help staff a Tariffville shelter if needed in the future. Mr. Hampton mentioned that some local churches had indicated they might buy a generator.

Mr. Cooke asked Mr. Kowalski about any potential timeline with regards to the AM station. Mr. Kowalski said it will depend on the reaction from the FCC on getting a more substantial license, which could take months. Other means of contacting the public during an emergency were discussed. The PA system on top of each Fire House was discussed.

FIRE - In Chief Baldis' absence, Mr. Kowalski reported that the new Engine 7 is now in operation and working well, and they have sold the older Engine 13. The abandoned Culbro barns/sheds within Town were discussed as a safety hazard. Mr. Kowalski said Culbro has been non-responsive, but they somehow need to get these barns secured. Mr. Cooke said he would speak with Mr. Peck, Town Planner, to see if there is anything further that can be done. Mr. Kowalski finished up by saying that the Bar Association of CT is providing legal support with regards to legal issues that resulted from storm events.

Mr. Hampton congratulated Mr. Kowalski, saying in May he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38AM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roy and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Hampton, Chairman
Clerk

Leslie U. Faraci,