

From: Susan Mazurski May 26, 2009 8:26:51 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 03/19/2009 APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
March 19, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for March 19, 2009, 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, Kevin Kowalski, Peter Ingvertsen, James Baldis, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Mike Delehanty Lucy Bowman, John Hampton (Chairman), Burke LaClair, Edward LaMontagne, Mr. Matheny, Robert Wojciak and other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was none.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Review, discuss and possibly approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2009

Several edits were made to the minutes.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, and was unanimously approved.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – Mr. Delehanty stated that they will be holding an EMT and MRT refresher course next Friday through Sunday. He stated that people should get in touch with him if they are interested in attending.

Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski stated that the EMPG grant has been

approved for the Town. They will now have a funding stream for the purpose of emergency management. Regarding the instant training, he stated that they are trying to find a funding stream for this. CROG does not have any funds for training; he is now looking to the State for funding. He stated that he would like to have a tabletop in late spring or early fall and then follow this up with a full scale if funding is available.

Mr. Kowalski stated that there will be another revision of the plan coming out in June. This will be sent electronically.

Mr. Kowalski stated that he has been sending out notices regarding available training. He stated that there is an ICS300 with the Police Department. This is a four day training. It is typically for management regarding managing large scale incidents.

Fire – Chief Baldis stated now that the snow cover is gone, brush fire concerns will come quickly. He stated that they are currently 3” below average regarding rainfall.

Chief Baldis stated that recently they had an incident where there was a lost party up in the mountain, although it turned out to be more of the Bloomfield, Avon/West Hartford area, but the hikers originated in Simsbury.

Regarding the STOC boxes, Chief Baldis stated that these are a series of radio communication boxes that allows them to broadcast over various frequencies. They do not have to pass out different radios. He stated that the cross communication between departments is great.

Regarding the house fire on Pilfershire, Mr. Kowalski stated that during the investigation, which is still ongoing, there was an issue with the alarm system. The homeowner had a working alarm system in the house, but just recently had transferred from AT&T phone system to an IP system. He stated that the alarm system was not compatible with this system. The alarm never came into the Department; they received the call from a neighbor. Mr. Sevetz suggested that they send a letter to DPUC to make it a requirement that the telephone companies, when service is switched, that they contact the alarm companies if this is an issue.

Farmington Valley Health District – Mr. Matheny stated that they are trying to navigate their way through the new financial reality. He stated that as part of the Governor’s budget this year, their per capita funding was cut to 45%. This will affect their ability to be fully engaged in all of their Towns; they may be a little slower in their responses.

Mr. Matheny stated that the Farmington Valley Health District’s emergency preparedness money will be renewed for another year. They will be doing

some drills and exercises either by themselves or with various Towns.

Police – Chief Ingvertsen stated that activity is slow, other than their normal traffic, complaints and medical calls. He stated that they have received notice from Chris Murphy's office that they will be receiving grant money. With this money, they will be updating their holding facility, cameras and voice activation system. They will also be putting cameras in cruisers; purchasing a brand new ID photograph system; and partially fund new radar units.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that one officer is still in the academy. Two officers, who are currently on field training, will be on the road next month.

Regarding Reverse 911, Mr. Sevetz stated that the issues have been resolved. The Virtual Private Network (VPN) line between Simsbury and Hartford could not connect with the three servers. It has now been referred to Rick Bazzano to make sure the lines are functional. Once this is done, they are hoping to have Reverse 911 running within the next month. Training will be given for this.

Regarding the protocol for Reverse 911, Mr. Sevetz stated that this is for any Town-wide emergency, although some parameters will need to be set. Typically, the public safety, fire, police and EMS are initially involved. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the Public Safety Committee will probably need to set the guidelines for the use of Reverse 911 because all of the emergency units are represented. This would be presented as a Town policy.

Mr. Sevetz stated that there is a grant for \$10,000 that the Town has received so that new communication equipment can be purchased and upgrades can be made to the EOC.

Social Services – Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that Simsbury will be hosting an emergency management/shelter management workshop through the Red Cross in April or May. She stated that she needs some suggestions regarding who to invite; she would like all of the surrounding Towns to come.

Aging and Disability – Edward LaMontagne stated that there have been issues with safety on Rails to Trails. A pedestrian was knocked down by a cyclist several months ago. Chairman Hampton stated that Mr. Sawitzke has been discussing the possibility of more signage on the trail. Mr. LaMontagne stated that he has not discussed this with him, although they have discussed the lights for the crossing by Route 10. The pedestrian lights are currently working. Chief Ingvertsen stated that there has also been discussion regarding increasing the size of the width of some parts of the trails. Some areas are not wide enough to accommodate both riders and

pedestrians.

Edward LaMontagne stated that they have had some seniors discussing the blue stone in front of Eno Memorial Hall, which are becoming loose. This is a safety concern and liability issue. Mr. Roy stated that the stones are still settling; they will become tighter over time. He stated that he will look into this issue.

CL&P – Mr. Wojciak stated that the emergency responder meeting has been postponed until April. This meeting is to discuss issues during storms, wires down and how to interface with different emergency response personnel.

Board of Education – Regarding the capital project budget, Burke LaClair stated that the Squadron Line's emergency generator is on the Town Meeting agenda. If funded, this will help replace the generator and it will also impact the shelter for that part of Town.

Regarding the second round of the school safety grant, Mr. LaClair stated that they are still waiting to hear if they will receive any additional money.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Announcement of upcoming Tariffville Public Safety Forum

Chairman Hampton stated that the Tariffville Village Association is putting together a public safety forum at the Tariffville School on Thursday, April 2nd. All are invited to attend this community forum. He stated that this forum was started by the possibility of the liquor store moving into the area; there are concerns over traffic and safety issues on Winthrop Street and concerns regarding the liquor store's proximity to a school. He stated that the Tariffville Village Association is forming a group to possibly go to the Liquor Control Commission to protest the liquor store. Chairman Hampton stated that this forum is an opportunity for people to come together to ask questions of public safety officials.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they have gotten many calls between January to March ranging from 911 calls to motor vehicle stops and complaints in this area of Town. He stated that there was one drug violation in this area with one arrest. He stated that he is currently preparing for this forum and presentation.

The Committee members discussed the kayak races that will be taking place in Tariffville at the end of April and some of the possible safety issues.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Review, discuss and possibly make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding a proposed Radio Amplification Ordinance

Mr. Robertson stated that the Town Attorney recommended that Town staff prepare a staff report and pass it back to the Public Safety. Mr. Sevetz stated that on January 21st, he spoke with West Hartford's Communication's Manager who stated that the cost for implementation is borne by the building owner. The only minor problems that West Hartford had was the Ordinance requires annual testing; if something were to fail shortly after that annual test, and there is no public safety personnel in the building, they would not have any way of knowing if it was functioning or not. West Hartford has not had any significant issues with their Ordinance.

Mr. Sevetz made a motion to move this Ordinance forward to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. ADJOURN

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chief Baldis, which was unanimously approved.