

From: Susan Mazurski September 19, 2011 9:53:58 AM  
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 07/21/2011 APPROVED  
To: SimsburyCT\_SafetyMin  
Cc:

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 21, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Hampton, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order on Thursday, July 21st, at 7:03 a.m., in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were also present: Chief James Baldis, SVFD, Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshall, Lucille G. Bowman, SVAA, Micheline Lecours-Beck, Social Services, Michael Delehanty, SVAA. Also in attendance were Lieutenant Nicholas Boulter, SPD, Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works, and Burke LaClair, Board of Education Assistant Business Manager.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Mr. Hampton asked if there was anyone present for Public Audience. There was no one present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 19, 2011

Ms. Lecours-Beck moved to approve the minutes from May 19, 2011. Chief Baldis seconded the motion. The minutes, with one minor correction, were approved and the motion was passed unanimously.

II. UPDATES & REPORTS

A. AMBULANCE - Mr. Delehanty wanted to note that there have been some excellent training opportunities this summer, under the leadership of their training officer. These opportunities including; training with Granby Ambulance, upcoming training with Dyno Nobel, and most notably, they recently had inter-agency training with The Fire Department. Mr. Delehanty mentioned how well-received this training was, by his staff. He thanked Chief Baldis, Kristen and Randy at the Fire Department for the cooperation with this training. Mr. Hampton asked if there were any questions for Mr.

Delehanty, there were none.

B. CIVIL PREPAREDNESS - Mr. Kowalski first noted the re-write going on for the Small Pox Vaccination Clinic Program. Mr. Kowalski does not anticipate changing that program much, as it works for us and has been practiced and will continue with it. That would also be used for a Drug Distribution Center Program. He also mentioned a review of the Fire Town Station, which is a national stock-pile storage facility. He then said regarding the Fire Department web-page (which is also linked to the Town website), they have introduced some informational data for natural emergencies. Mr. Kowalski referenced that a lot of that information is taken from the "Are You Ready?" package, which are still available and he said they are looking to upload the package onto the web-site for availability. The next item Mr. Kowalski raised was regarding the phone systems. Mr. Kowalski said that unfortunately, Nextel will not be "direct-connecting" very much longer, as part of the re-arrangement of FCC regulations, resulting in a loss of band-width. Mr. Kowalski said since our direct-connect usage is quite small, instead of waiting for Nextel's solution, we are going over to Sprint 100%, which won the contract. Mr. Hampton asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Kowalski, there were none.

C. FIRE - Chief Baldis wanted to make everyone aware of, as a result of the lightning storm a few weeks ago, there was a lightning strike that did hit the tower above the Main Station and effected the Maintenance Building, in effect taking out the radio system. Fortunately, the previous investment made into lightning protection worked very well and there was no effect to the dispatch center. Chief Baldis did say there was a period of time with some radio issues, but they went onto the town-wide frequency, which did work. He said they responded by getting all of their members to the station for a period of four (4) hours, where they had reduced radio capabilities. But they were still able to respond and meet the needs of the community. They have reviewed where the weak points were and now are updating the systems to better protect areas that might have been weak links, although lightening continues to be an issue. Mr. Kowalski reported that 96 lightning strikes were tracked, of various sizes, within 1/2 mile radius, which is substantial. He mentioned that Northeast Lightning, who we have been working with, say you can only direct lightning, not get rid of it. Mr. Kowalski said wire halos are being constructed around the facilities that can absorb lightning energy and direct it to the ground. He said the ground rods in the new fire house are 40' deep, which is why they survived the hit at Main House. Mr. Kowalski then mentioned they are going to enhance the town-wide frequency system with a receiver at Bushy Hill. He thinks it will be a real advantage for all services to have that as a back-up. Chief Baldis then brought up the effect on the Fire Department from the paving on Route 10. He said, while it went alright, there were periods of

time when they were not quite aware of the schedule and how it might effect their ability to respond to or from the Main Station. They took the necessary actions to make sure those who would be responding at those times were made aware that they might have to take an alternate route, or possibly expect delays. He mentioned that other stations were put on a response list for those periods of time. Chief Baldis then said they might want to take a look at the parking in front of Vincent's Funeral Home, which is permitted for concerts/events. He mentioned that it could present a hazard with their vehicles coming out there and asked if it could be designated a no parking area. Mr. Kowalski asked Lieutenant Boulter if he could make it Temporary No Parking at that location. Lieutenant Boulter confirmed they could do that. Mr. Kowalski said it could be put on the list for next year to address. Chief Baldis then reiterated the success of the joint EMS-Fire training. He then said that the Incident Command Program, created for the large gatherings, like the concerts, seems to be working quite well. They have had to exercise it with some of the weather recently in the area. They have been requested to attend the Fly-In meeting in August in preparation of that event. Mr. Kowalski said he had alerted them of the IC Program and added there have been several public meetings in order to resolve the traffic issues previously experienced with that event. Mr. Hampton asked if there were any further questions for Chief Baldis, there were none.

D. POLICE - Lieutenant Boulter said he had no update.

E. SOCIAL SERVICES - Ms. Lecours-Beck said she has been working with Jeff Giddings and Mr. Kowalski on the Red Cross agreement, going back and forth on some language, in order for the Town to retain control over the shelters. She said it should be wrapped up pretty soon and going to Board of Selectmen for approval. She then raised the topic of the Cooling Centers, with the current heat we are experiencing, which are the Senior Center and the Library. She said the Library is extending hours Friday (staying open through 8PM) and Saturday, if needed, as the situation will be monitored. Ms. Lecours-Beck said we have registered with Emergency Management at the State level, InfoLine, Channel 3 & 37, so the information is out there. Mr. Hampton asked if there were any additional questions for Ms. Lecours-Beck, there were none.

F. BOARD OF EDUCATION - Mr. LaClair announced that Mr. David Holden, Business Manager, will be retiring at the end of the month. He wished Mr. Holden, and his family, well. Mr. LaClair said there was a legislative item this past session regarding Carbon Monoxide (CO) in schools. He said he knows Steve Twitchell, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, is on top of the situation to make sure we are in compliance. Mr. Kowalski confirmed that he had been involved and commented on the subject. He mentioned this was caused by an incident, in a nearby town, where a furnace door fell off,

resulting in fumes in the school. Subsequently they had to ship a number of people to the hospital, with everyone able to return to school within an hour or so. He did mention that they are going to have to come up with a reaction program when responding to a CO call. Mr. Kowalski said 60-70% of their CO calls are false calls resulting from various reasons including; humidity, moisture, cars in a garage starting up with wind blowing the fumes in front of the alarm. They need an action plan and coordinate with the schools. Funding will be another issue that will need to be addressed. Mr. Delehanty then mentioned that the new paramedic monitor has the ability to measure the CO levels in the blood, just as a pulse oximeter does with oxygen, which is a good tool. Mr. Kowalski asked Mr. Delehanty about the cost of those units. Mr. Delehanty said the individual hand-held units are between \$5,000-\$7,000 but this feature is built into the Life Pack. Mr. Kowalski then asked Mr. LaClair if there was any word regarding the Generator Program. Mr. LaClair said he would follow up with Mr. Twitchell to get an update. Mr. Kowalski said they were looking to get a generator for Tariffville School, so they could designate it as a shelter area. He said they are trying to get the majority of funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Kowalski said that power and cleaning facilities are the two biggest needs with a shelter area.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Route 10 crosswalk by Bidwell's Lawn and Garden Center - The committee discussed the crosswalk, brought up previously by Robert Hensley, Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hampton said he would follow up to find out exactly the specific concern regarding the crosswalk. Lieutenant Boulter did mention they had thought about putting up a sign north and south of the crosswalk in order to give advance notice, although there is already more signage there than required. Lieutenant Boulter said since it is so sporadic, putting an officer there does not seem like the best use of resources. But he will follow up. Mr. Roy did mention that the cars do seem to come to a skidding stop. The matter was discussed further by the committee and Mr. Hampton again said he would follow up on the issue.

Mr. Hampton then asked the committee if there was any additional new business. There was no new business.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chief Baldis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 a.m. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. John Hampton, Chairman  
Clerk

Leslie U. Faraci,