

From: Susan Mazurski November 25, 2008 8:57:03 AM
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 09/18/2008
To: SimsburyCT_SafetyMin
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE
September 18, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for September 18, 2008, 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: Kevin Kowalski, Peter Sevetz, Peter Ingvertsen, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Mike Delehanty Lucille Bowman, Robert Wojciak, and John Hampton (Chairman). Mike Long, Bob Hensley, Burke LaClair, Brandon Robertson and other interested parties were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Carrie Kramer, 39 Sunset Hill Road read the letter that she had previously sent to the Commission. The letter stated that she frequently walks with a group in the mornings down the Iron Horse Boulevard section of the bike path. She stated that she was walking on the path one morning with a friend when a young girl ran into her. She sustained several injuries because of this accident. Mr. Kramer stated that others have approached her with their own stories, just like hers. Ms. Kramer stated that, currently, the bike path does not have any usage signs. She suggested that this Committee look to other Towns regarding their signage in order to make the appropriate changes.

Chairman Hampton stated that this is a very important issue. Many people are walking and biking and using the path. He stated that the Town is looking at other Towns to see what they are doing regarding signage. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he would be talking with Mr. Sawitzke to make sure he was aware of this issue; Mr. Sawitzke is the coordinator for the bike path.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that she agrees that something needs to be done. She has almost been hit by a biker several times; bikers come up from behind and pedestrians are not always aware of them. She stated that when there is an officer on the path, people tend to slow down.

Regarding signage, Chairman Hampton stated that there are signs regarding dogs, but not regarding bike etiquette.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the school system in Simsbury does offer a bike safety program. Chairman Hampton suggested that a program like this be offered to adults.

Donna Caldeira, who was walking with Carrie Kramer on the day of the accident, stated that bikes on the path are going way too fast and they also weave in and out. Although she feels the bike path is a great asset to Simsbury, this issue needs to be addressed.

Chief Ingvertsen believes that the section of the path near Iron Horse Boulevard is more narrow than other parts of the path. He stated that he would discuss this with Mr. Sawitzke regarding expanding the width of the path in this area.

Mr. Hensley stated that he has looked at other Towns and communities; they have signage on portions of path showing symbols for walking or biking. He stated that Simsbury needs to be proactive and find ways to address this important issue.

Mr. Long stated he feels the two uses, walking and biking, are not compatible in this area. He suggested that maybe sidewalks be put in along Iron Horse Boulevard or additional signage be added.

Mr. Kowalski stated that walkers and bikers need to have courtesy for each other. He has seen many walkers walking 4 abreast; this creates problems for bikers to get around them. He feels that co-use of the path is important.

Chairman Hampton thanked the residents for coming and speaking to the Committee. He stated that they will be looking at other Towns and communities and to the East Coast Greenway in order to find a solution.

1. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance – Mr. Delehanty stated that the new EMT class starts October 7th. Twenty students have already enrolled. There will also be a recertification on September 26th and 27th.

Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski stated that they met yesterday with FEMA regarding a disaster recovery center within Simsbury for the surrounding area. He stated that this is to have a local disaster recovery center where FEMA would set up in the event of a wide-scale emergency or declared disaster. FEMA would need to pre-qualify and pre-inspect the area. Mr. Kowalski stated that they discussed having 3 entities for the disaster recovery center, which are the high school, Eno Memorial Hall and the library.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to have three disaster recovery centers pre-qualified, which would be the Simsbury Library, Simsbury High School and Eno Memorial Hall. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Fire – Mr. Kowalski stated that there will be an extensive fly-in on Sunday, September 21st. There will be approximately 200-300 airplanes and 500 antique cars at the airport. They are expecting about 8,000 people. He stated that Wolcott Road will be made a one-way street for a portion of the day. Mr. Kowalski stated that this will be an uncontrolled show; there is no control station there. He stated that they have met with the airport people to try to make this a great event.

The Fire Department has been working on a policy on storm preparedness for equipment and response. These procedures will be based on the national policy.

The Fire District will be having an open house on October 15th. The annual memorial service ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. at the Main Fire House to remember all of the fallen fire fighters.

Farmington Valley Health District – There was no report.

Police – Chief Ingvertsen stated that the last storm did damage to the Police radio system. Although the communications did not stop, some computer boards were burnt from the lighting. He stated that the cost to repair this was just under \$10,000. This money did come out of their budget, although they will be looking for appropriations to reimburse the cost.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they currently have two vacancies in the Department. The positions are for a Control Officer and for a Dispatcher. The tests for these vacancies will be given on October 18th.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that they are in the process of trying to finish the upgrade of their computer system. They are trying to get the cruiser

portion of computers to be able to send reports directly into headquarters. CRCOG supports the CAPTAIN System, which is the regional way of communicating between agencies. This has increased the cost by approximately \$5,000 in order to keep both systems up and running. He stated that they are looking at different alternatives; they cannot do away with the CAPTAIN System.

Social Services – Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that the heating season is fast approaching; this will be a difficult season for many, especially for low income families. She stated that the Legislature has allocated extra money for the heating season. The Federal Government has released funds also. The Guidelines for the Fuel Assistance Programs have increased. She stated that they have already received 15-20 calls for help. There are many generous people in Simsbury that are willing to help others in need.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that the fuel assistance program is for very low income. Last year, they processed 175 applications. The State sets the guidelines. She stated that there will be two different programs this year; a State program and Operation Fuel. Simsbury will be participating in both programs this year.

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that they have purchased \$5,000 worth of blankets for people who come in to apply for fuel assistance. She stated that they will be holding an energy forum on October 14th for people to come in to learn how to apply and to learn about safety. They are also asking knitters to knit an afghan so they can hand these out to Simsbury residents as well. They will also be handing out energy efficient light bulbs with the blankets.

CL&P – Regarding the bike path near Agway, Mr. Wojciak stated that he is very concerned with this issue. He stated that the CL&P facility may have been an impediment to the options regarding what could have been done in this area. He stated that he would be willing to look into this in order to possibly come up with safer options.

Board of Education – Burke LaClair stated that they received a grant last spring for school security. They have another grant that is due October 1st; they continue to put more improvements in place. He stated that there will be some changes as to how school building can be accessed during the school day, although they are still putting all of the details in place. He stated that there will also be identification badges for staff. Mr. LaClair stated that these grant funds will help to reimburse approximately 40% of these costs.

Mr. Kowalski stated that he hopes the Public Safety Committee will go on record regarding supporting the expenditure to look at grants or within the

Town's budget to replace the generator at Squadrine Line School. He stated that it is close to failing. This is one of the larger facilities for mass care. He encouraged the Committee to apply for emergency management grants. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the generator has already been prepared; the wires have already been run. He stated that he strongly supports this.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that there is a lot of grant money that is reimbursed to the Town, that does not get funded back into the budget. He stated that this money goes back into the general fund; they then have to ask for this money back. He questioned if there was a better way of being able to do this. Mr. Robertson stated that a special revenue fund could be set up. Chairman Hampton stated that he would ask Mary Glassman and Kevin Kane what some other options might be.

Aging and Disability –Edward LaMontagne thanked Chief Ingvertsen and the Fire District for hosting a picnic for the seniors. This event was very well attended and enjoyed by many. He stated that if the Aging and Disability Commission could be of any help to the Social Services, they would be happy to help.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the senior picnic was a cooperation between the Police Department, Social Services and the Recreation Department.

2. Review, discuss and possibly approve the July 18, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to approve the July 18, 2008 minutes as written. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Review, discuss and possibly make a recommendation regarding a Public Safety Radio Amplification Ordinance

Mr. Sevetz stated that a lot of municipalities are requiring commercial buildings that may not have public safety radio coverage inside to install an antenna system or electronic equipment. This will help public safety forces to operated effectively inside these buildings and have communications. Mr. Sevetz stated that he has researched other Town's ordinances and came up with a draft ordinance. He stated that this is a very technical ordinance and does not know if it is the purview of this Committee to dissect the ordinance. He suggested that maybe they move it forward as a concept.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that there are two locations in the Town of Simsbury that does not have radio communications for the Police Department and Fire Department to receive transmissions or send them out. Currently,

there is no requirement for new buildings to put this amplification system into their building so safety communications can occur.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion to present this draft ordinance to the Board of Selectmen so that they can hold a public hearing on this and possibly have it adopted. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion.

Mr. Kowalski stated that once this is an ordinance, they will seek voluntary compliance to the ordinance. He stated that this will be a tremendous expense to the community if businesses do not volunteer to put in this system.

Mr. Long suggested that a provision be made to exclude buildings that these communication devices might create a hazard because of the use of the building or the use within the building. Mr. Kowalski agreed and stated a provision to exempt buildings where the use of radios would pose a safety hazard should be included.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Discuss issues referred by Board of Selectmen at September 8, 2008 meeting including safety issues at Routes 10 and 315, other bike trail related issues and right turn on red signs at the intersections of Route 10 and Plank and Drake Hill Roads

Chief Ingvertsen stated that some questions were raised regarding the Plank Hill right turn on red for Route 10. He stated that this is the only intersection in Town that the stop bar is back a great distance compared to other intersections. This allows the traffic not to back up onto Route 10. The State will not allow a right turn on red at this location because the way the stop bar is and because they do not want the possibility of blocking that intersection where it may cause Route 10 to back up. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he did address this issue with the State in 2007 and their answer was the same then as it is now.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the State was supposed to examine Drake Hill right turn on red onto Route 10. In 2007, this was supposed to be taken down. He stated that he has been in contact with the State and they will be back out to look at this again to see why this delay occurred.

Mr. Hensley stated that there is also an issue regarding Stratton Brook and Route 10; the morning traffic backs up. Chief Ingvertsen stated that in 2007, the same issue arose. There are three intersections in this area that are very close together. The light there has to be timed perfectly. During the summertime, there are no issues at that intersections; the problems only arise after the start of school. When the light sequence was

checked, it was found that because of the storm, it reset and when back to a shorter timeframe. This has since been changed back and they are monitoring this location. Mr. Long questioned if the State would support an electrified situation where, during rush hour, there is no right turn on red, but the rest of the time would be appropriate. Chief Ingvertsen stated that he has not proposed this to the State. This corridor was modified and upgraded last year, although he will propose the question.

Regarding Routes 10 and 315, Chief Ingvertsen stated that there have been some near misses on the bike path. Cars have the traffic lights and they turn; bikers need to obey that portion of the stop sign that tells them to stop and push the walk button. Mr. Kowalski stated that in other communities, the bikers dismount their bikes and walk them across the road, which he feels is much safer. He stated that some bikers think they have the right-of-way, although they do not. He suggested that signs be put up in this area. Ms. Bowman stated that the way the lights are set up, there is not enough time to walk across both parts of the road. This means that people are stopping in the middle of the road for the traffic light to turn again.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the other bike issue is at Agway. He stated that Mr. Sawitzke is still waiting for the State to get an electrified light up and running. Mr. Hensley stated that this is a very dangerous area; the Town should push the State on this issue.

5. Update regarding proposed ordinance concerning declaration of a disaster/emergency

Chairman Hampton stated that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, they put forth an ordinance pending this Committee's approval concerning a declaration of a disaster/emergency, by authorizing the First Selectman to declare a disaster to expedite the emergency management program.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion to approve the ordinance authorizing the First Selectman or his or her designee to authorize a declaration of a disaster/emergency in the Town. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion.

Regarding Section 2 of this ordinance, Ms. Bowman stated that the First Selectman and the Deputy First Selectman or the Board of Selectmen are identified, although in Sections 3 and 5, it seems that who can do these is limited. She suggested that these sections be consistent. Chairman Hampton stated that they would make this change.

Chief Ingvertsen amended his motion to incorporate these changes to Sections 3 and 5. Mr. Kowalski seconded the amendment to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. Review, discuss and possibly make a recommendation regarding the participation of the Town in the following grant programs through the State of Connecticut – Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fire District Regarding Same:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant Program
- Emergency Operations Center Equipment, Training and Exercise Program
- Emergency Operations Center Computer/Internet Stipend Agreement

Mr. Kowalski stated this is a grant program which is made up of three stipends for equipment. He stated that over the last several years, they have been doing this voluntarily. The State has now made grants available for a paid part-time position. He stated that they are asking that the Town enter into an agreement with the Fire District for providing the service, in the form of an MOU, and that the grant funds go to the District.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that this is for reimbursing the Fire District portion of the money for the services that Mr. Kowalski provides to the Town as the Civil Preparedness/Emergency Management Director. He stated that the State will send the money to the Town, which will then be transferred back to the Fire District.

Chief Ingvertsen made a motion to allow First Selectman, Mary Glassman to sign this Memorandum of Understanding between the Fire District and the Town of Simsbury. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Kowalski stated that this is only for the funding purposes. The CEO of the community is still in charge of Civil Preparedness. The Fire District will now have an understanding with the Town as far as a funding stream. He stated that this grant is annual. He stated if or when the grant is not longer available, there will be an escape clause on both sides that states the Town does not have to pay the Fire District.

Chairman Hampton stated that the Board of Selectmen has already approved this pending the Public Safety Committee's approval.

Mr. Sevetz suggested that the reference of the three sections of the grant be included in the motion. Regarding the Emergency Operations Center Equipment section of the grant, Mr. Sevetz stated that this comes with some requirements, including participation in the annual Point of Distribution or Debris Management Exercises and School Security Exercises. He questioned if this would be a problem. Mr. Kowalski stated that they have

already done the annual Distribution training exercise. Regarding the school security, he stated that this is a “code red” arrangement; he believes this is a paper exercise for the school.

Mr. Sevetz amended the motion to include the participation in the EMGP Grant, the EOC Equipment Grant and the EOC Computer/Internet Stipend Agreement. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the amended motion, which was unanimously approved.

Regarding CREPC (Capital Region Emergency Planning Committee), Mr. Kowalski stated that they will be having six funding proposals, which will follow up on the 04 Dollar Grants. This has to do with reverse 911. The Town is anxiously awaiting this; reverse 911 is the highest priority in the community.

Regarding reverse 911, Chief Ingvertsen stated that the problem with the system is not with the Town of Simsbury; the State is having some difficulty getting the program up and running. They are hoping to have everything in place by the fall.

7. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman’s approval of Annex M of the Town of Simsbury Emergency Operations Plan entitled, “Evacuee-Owned Pet Management Plan”.

Mr. Kowalski stated that this was in the Connecticut General Statutes last year; this has to be included within the Emergency Management Plan regarding how to deal with pets within the community. He stated that this is made up of a list of procedures. In the past, people do not come to the shelter unless their animals can be taken care of. Only service animals are allowed into the shelters. Mr. Kowalski stated that this plan is State wide. This plan is a tool to allow for the participation in several phases of pet evacuee. He stated that the adoption of this document needs to be put into the Emergency Operations Plan and it also needs to be submitted to the State.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion that Annex M of the Town of Simsbury Emergency Operations Plan entitled, “Evacuee-Owned Pet Management Plan” be accepted into the Emergency Operations Plan. Ms. Lecours-Beck seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

8. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman’s approval of Annex A of the Town of Simsbury Emergency Operations Plan entitled, “Direction and Control”

Mr. Kowalski stated that this is an update on direction control. It is an update of the cover letter and to include the National Incident Management

System in the Direction and Control section.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to accept Annex A into the Town of Simsbury's Emergency Operations Plan entitled, "Direction and Control". Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

9. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman to execute "EMA Health Services Annex".

Mr. Kowalski stated that this is a renewal of the EMS Health and Medical that was provided by the Ambulance. He stated that this will be put into the EOC.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion that the "EMA Health Services Annex" be accepted into the EOC. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 a.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lecours-Beck and was unanimously approved.