

From: Susan Mazurski November 22, 2010 9:11:07 AM  
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 09/30/2010 APPROVED  
To: SimsburyCT\_SafetyMin  
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE  
September 30, 2010

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Public Safety Sub-Committee for September 30, 2010, was called to order at 7:04 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members of the sub-committee were present: Peter Ingvertsen, Kevin Kowalski, Mike Delehanty, Mickey Lecours-Beck, William Ketchabaw, Robert Wojciak, John Hampton (Chairman), James Baldis, and Burke LeClair. Other interested parties were also present.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Review, discuss and possibly approve minutes from Regular Meeting on July 15, 2010

Chief Ingvertsen stated his concerns regarding how the motion was written under the heading of Ambulance. It was agreed by the Committee members that they would discuss this issue further under New Business.

Ms. Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the July 15, 2010 minutes as written. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### UPDATES AND REPORTS

##### Ambulance

Mr. Delehanty stated that the Simsbury Ambulance will be holding an EMT

course on October 15th. He stated that classes are already full, although if anyone from another agency is interested in taking this class, they will be accommodated.

### Civil Preparedness

Mr. Kowalski stated that the report from the exercise was very well received by the State. They are currently using it as an example. Regarding lingering issues, he stated that the plan is being upgraded again. They are trying to make it more generic. It will also be entirely on one disc and electronically distributed.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the school and Town departments are working on an IT initiative. He stated that the Emergency Operation Center needs to have an IT person. Any information that is needed to get out needs to go through the IT division.

Mr. Kowalski stated that there was an issue regarding the school bus radio system. He stated that they may partner with the school regarding tower space, pending approval. Their low band needs to be upgraded to a high band radio system. He stated that the target area is Firetown Road; there is tower space there.

Mr. Roy stated that they will be replacing the tower at Central School. The new tower will be approximately 30 feet taller than the existing tower, which will allow for future capacity.

Chief Ingvertsen questioned if the current system could be expanded. Mr. Roy stated that a discussion needs to be had regarding which various antennas belong where in Town. Chief Ingvertsen stated that there needs to be coordination between the agencies. Mr. Kowalski stated that there are a lot of dead areas in Town depending upon the frequency being used. He feels using a high band will help.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he would like to see the Highway Department be equipped with radios for emergency purposes. Mr. Roy stated that all trucks have radios although they need to be transferred up to the narrow band.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the main fire house will be having an open house. They will be having a civil preparedness table there. Residents will be able to look at a sample kit of what they should have at home and there will also be "Are You Ready?" books available.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the weather forecast for today is 4-5 five inches of rain with high winds. He stated that although the rivers are low, there

may be flash flooding. Mr. Roy stated that they are concerned with localized catch base flooding and cross culverts.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that the State's Emergency Notification System is now up and running. He stated that money was put into their budget in order to purchase an ENS system for the Town. The Board of Selectmen as well as the Board of Finance has approved this ENS system. He questioned if the Town should move forward with this because the State only allows Towns to use their system for emergencies, although if the Town purchases their own system, they cannot use the 911 phone base. He stated that the Town may want to have their own system to let residents know of a school closing or delay because of certain problem in a certain school or for other information that needs to get out to residents. Chief Ingvertsen stated that the maintenance for this system is approximately \$5,000 per year to keep it up and running. He stated that there will be residents who want to supply their phone number in order to receive messages. The Town Clerk is willing to be the contact person at the Town Hall for residents to sign up with their contact numbers. He stated that a discussion needs to be had regarding the cost to the Town for maintenance.

Mr. Kowalski stated that the school system has already had this type of notification system for the last several years. He questioned if that system could be expanded. Mr. LeClair stated that he is unsure; it is only used for families that are enrolled in the school. Mr. Kowalski suggested enhancing the school's system to have only one system to cover both the school system and the Town residents so they are not spending money on two separate systems. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they could use the allocated money to upgrade the school's system to have a combined system. Mr. Kowalski stated that he would to encourage the IT Department to look into having this combined system. He stated that he would like this to happen before the winter. The financial impact would be better than having two systems.

## Fire

Chief Baldis stated that they are fully operational at the main fire house. They have been getting a lot of residents stopping in. He stated that this is a very busy time of year. They recently held a Chamber of Commerce breakfast for local businesses. This Sunday is National Firefighter Memorial Sunday, which also is a time that Simsbury memorializes people who have served and have passed on. He stated that along with the dedication of the new fire house there will also be a dedication of the new memorial.

Chief Baldis stated that for Fire Prevention Week, they will be having a number of activities as well as an open house with school visits on October 8th.

Chief Baldis stated that he has seen many electrical problems and power line issues around Town. Weather events are taxing on any resource. He stated that it is a public safety issue when live power lines are down. Once the power is turned off, the Fire Department can leave the scene. He stated that CL&P is very responsive.

Chief Baldis stated that they had the Fly-in two weeks ago; traffic was an issue. He stated that the Fire Department participates in this event in a voluntary way. They do this because the event has become so large that their response time would be significantly compromised if they were not already there because of the traffic. The Fly-in has gotten so big; they need to have a discussion regarding public safety concerns.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that this event has grown from a small event to a large and dangerous event in that planes are going in and out and there are many people in attendance. He stated that they did meet with someone from the Fly-in prior to the event. This representative stated that they will be submitting plans regarding how they will handle the traffic next year. Also parking was an issue, which is the cause of the traffic. Chief Ingvertsen stated that in the future, they will have to make Wolcott Road one way; this is becoming a big event for the Police Department. He stated that the Event Manager has been put on notice; they need to determine if they will authorize this event again next year.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they did have a pre-discussion with representatives from the Fly-in to discuss the air craft operation. The air traffic is controlled at this event. Fire apparatus is at the event prior to the crowd getting there. He stated that people were stopping in the middle of the road to wait for openings for special parking, which created a big problem. He feels that another meeting is needed. Either the event needs to be downgraded so the amount of people are reduced or they need to come up with a better parking area.

Chief Ingvertsen stated that he feels all emergency agencies should be involved with these bigger events and they need to set some requirements. Mr. Delehanty suggested that representatives from bigger events should make a presentation to this Committee. Chief Ingvertsen suggested meeting with just the appropriate individuals instead of the whole committee.

Chief Baldis stated that the Fly-in is a fundraising event. The airport is privately funded and they use this event as a major fundraiser to support the airport.

Chief Baldis made a modification to the motion that was made at the previous meeting to state as follows: for any public gathering, each event held would be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine public safety

needs. Chief Ingvertsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### Farmington Valley Health District

There was no report.

#### Police

Chief Ingvertsen thanked the Fire Department for allowing the Police Department to use the West Simsbury fire house for part of their promotional procedure for testing for two lieutenants. The Fire Department has always been available and has always supported the Police Department in its endeavors by allowing them to use their buildings and equipment when necessary. Chief Ingvertsen stated that they did promote two lieutenants and they are preparing the process for the sergeant selections.

#### Social Services

Ms. Lecours-Beck stated they are starting their approval for assistance with heat. The Town did have 260 residents last year that qualified. Ms. Lecours-Beck stated that she and Chief Ingvertsen continue to work on the "No Phone Zone" promise. She stated that kids at the high school held a "No Phone Zone Day" and signed up a lot of their peers. The Board of Education will have this topic on an upcoming agenda. Diane Ullman is trying to get principals to sign up and to bring it back to their schools. She stated that they now have over 300 residents who have signed up and are participating.

Mr. LeClair stated that they have been updating their emergency access plans. He will be sending it out in electronic form. Regarding the Tower outage at Latimer Lane, he stated that this went smoothly with everyone involved. The power was restored very quickly.

Mr. Wojciak stated that he will be transferring to the Hartford office effective immediately. He introduced Carol Brochu, who will be taking over for him. Chairman Hampton thanked Mr. Wojciak for his service. Mr. Kowalski stated that CL&P has provided an outstanding service to the Town.

Mr. Roy stated that they are working on a flu vaccine for Town employees in November. This will be made available through the Farmington Valley Health District.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kowalski invited the Committee members to hold the next meeting at the

main fire house.

Mr. Kowalski stated that discussions regarding the Torch Light Parade and Simsbury Celebrates need to be had to make sure everything is in place.

Regarding the fire at the bandshell shed, Mr. Kowalski stated that the investigation has been done. There is not one specific point identifying the actual cause of the incident, however there is reason to believe that mechanical damage to wires was one of the leading indicators of a problem.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 a.m. Chief Baldis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.