

**Town of Somers
Civil Preparedness Advisory Council
Friday, November 9, 2012
7:30 AM
Fire House**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Thayer at 07:33 hours.

Members present: SGT Jose Claudio, DEMD George Collins, Mr. Peter DeBrino, Deputy PWD Todd Rolland, EMD Dan Thayer, and 1st Selectman Lisa Pellegrini (Ex Officio).

Members absent: Mr. Tim Kradas, Fire Chief Gary Scheissl, Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Mrs. Kerry Tuttle.

Also present: Mrs. Paula LaFrance, Mr. William Boutwell, D/C Frank Falcone, and Mr. James MacFeat.

The Chairman noted that several absent members had contacted him to explain their inability to attend. Specifically, Mr. Kradas had been called to work for FEMA in relation to Storm Sandy damage, Chief Scheissl had a work conflict, and Dr. Suffredini was recovering from recent surgery.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes for the September, 2012 meeting. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September, 2012 meeting as submitted was made and seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

EOC Progress

Mr. Thayer reported on the progress being made at the EOC. The telephone system has been installed, and Storm Sandy identified some minor problems that either have been addressed or will be addressed in the future. These included establishing the “roll-over” of calls placed to busy numbers to unused lines, and the FY14 expansion of the Wi-Fi network to include an AT&T connection to augment the existing Cox Communications connection.

The Cox Communications cable TV/Wi-Fi connection for the EOC is provided by a separate service drop from the one used to provide Cox telephone service. The TV/Wi-Fi service drop was replaced on October 29th. At that time a problem was discovered in the Cox system, which was subsequently repaired on October 31st.

A new router modem was installed by Cox on the 29th, as well as all new interior coax wiring.

CERT Update

Mr. DeBrino reported that a CPR class was to be held for 12 of the CERT members. He also reported on attendance at Connecticut’s Annual CERT Weekend.

He also reported that there had been some attrition in the number of CERT trainees from Somers, due to withdrawals and transfers to programs in the trainees’ town of residence. The CERT group currently has 22 members.

Mr. DeBrino also noted that CERT members had provided coverage at the Senior Citizen and Town Hall parking lots on Election Day, November 6, 2012. Coverage was from 8 AM until 8 PM. 1st Selectman Pellegrini noted that this coverage was appreciated by the Board of Selectman, and a number of positive comments were received from voters.

New Business

Storm Sandy

There was a roundtable discussion of the impact of Storm Sandy on October 29th. Overall, the Town fared very well and suffered little damage or debris from the storm. The Town did open water and shower points, but they were not heavily used, due to the limited number of residents who lost electrical service, and the rapid rate of restoration that was experienced. It was noted that the EOC remained open until November 1st, so that the CL&P representative would remain on site.

When the EOC was finally closed on the afternoon of November 1st, only 5 accounts in Town were without electricity, due to 4 failed transformers, and work orders had been issued for the replacement of these 4 transformers.

CPAC Meeting Times

Mr. Thayer suggested that the 2013 meetings of the CPAC might begin at 0800 hours, rather than the present 0730. After a brief discussion, a motion to change the CPAC meeting time to 0800 hours beginning in January, 2013 was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote without further discussion.

2013 Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Thayer to approve the proposed CPAC Meeting Schedule for 2013. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

CPAC will meet in 2013 at Somers Fire Headquarters at 0800 hours on the 1st Firday of each month, with the exception of July, when the meeting will be held July 12th.

A copy of the approved schedule will be provided to the Somers Town Clerk.

Grant Application – Low Power AM Broadcast Station

1st Selctman Pellegrini informed the Council that she had made application for a Federal Grant to provide for the purchase of a low power AM radio broadcast station for use in broadcasting emergency information to Town residents.

Removal of Old Siren

SGT Claudio asked that the siren be removed from the Resident Troopers' Office. The siren had been installed when that structure was used by the Fire Department, but no longer served any purpose. From time to time, it has been operated by accident, creating confusion. Mr. Rolland said that he would look into its removal.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 0800 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Thayer
Chairman

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.