

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CIVIL PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 5, 2010
7:30 a.m.
Somers Fire House**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM

Members present included Joe Tolisano, Lisa Pellegrini, Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Bill Boutwell, Todd Rolland, Gary Schiessl, Pete DeBrino, Dan Thayer, Paula LaFrance, and Doug Minich.

First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini reported that the Town has 9 Nextel phones. Android phones were recently distributed to Sgt. Jose Claudio and Deputy Chief Frank Falcone to determine their effectiveness and both reported that they would be a good choice. Dr. Suffredini would like to continue with Verizon as a carrier due to the exceptional call service. A decision will be made once it is determined if state contracts are available for Android phones.

Discussion about the DPW radios and the fact that all radios must soon be on narrow band. Todd Rolland reported that there are 22 Kenwood TK-840 radios and 4 Kenwood TK-880 used by the DPW and the 840's cannot be used on narrow band. Dan Thayer recommended that Frank Falcone investigate the issue further and get back to the commission with his recommendation.

Mrs. Pellegrini had heard that the radio frequency used by DPW was not owned by the Town. This issue was discussed and this topic needs further investigation by Town and Fire Department personnel.

Dan Thayer gave a report on the following topics.

1. WebEOC has been moved from DEMHS Special projects to the emergency Management Division. More boards will be added in the future and training bulletins will be available as the board are posted.
2. High band radios are being switched to narrow band and must be done by the end of September of 2011. DEMHS requests that each high band radio be reprogrammed so that one channel is the current wideband and one is narrowband so that the transition can be accomplished without a problem. The wideband can then be reprogrammed after September 2011. The programming cost is eligible for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)
3. Training for individuals who will be documenting Town expenses and losses for Preliminary Disaster assessment and subsequent assistance will be forthcoming.
4. CIRMA and DEMHS have had great deal of discussion regarding volunteer liability. If DEMHS approves activation of CERTS, the state covers the participants for both liability and workers compensation. If the town prompts the activation of CERTS without state approval, then the town is liable and there is no workers compensation coverage, unless the town has entered into a separate agreement with the volunteers.

5. ITAC radios must be reprogrammed as part of the rebanding of 800MHz to 700MHz and is going to be accomplished with the turning in of old radios to Connecticut State Police and receiving a replacement. The old radio will be reprogrammed and reassigned. The goal is to have 2 or 3 radios in each community such as Director/Deputy Director EOC.
6. If an FOI request is made and there are concerns regarding sensitive data such as unlisted phone numbers, radio frequencies, contact numbers, volunteer addresses, etc. make immediate contact with DEMHS legal staff as timelines for responding to FOI request are critical.
7. DEMHS will be adding a new section to their website where PDF copies will be available. Discussion is ongoing regarding fill in forms.
8. DEMHS has been lax in enforcing compliance with the Loyalty Oath, but Somers has complied for the past two years and will continue to do so.
9. The purchase of a photo ID card system is an acceptable expenditure of EMPG funds as part of security for a Public Emergency Preparedness Program. Since it is a large expense for limited use, other alternatives are being explored.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas H. Minich - Recording secretary

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting