

**Town of Somers  
Civil Preparedness Advisory Council  
Friday, October 21, 2011  
7:30am  
Fire House**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan Thayer, EMD, at 7:42 AM.

Members present were: Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Chief Gary Scheissl, Deputy PW Director Todd Rolland, EMD Dan Thayer, Mr. Peter DeBrino, Mrs. Kerry Tuttle, and 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Lisa Pellegrini (Ex Officio). Members absent: SGT Jose Claudio and Mr. Arthur Hoza.

Also present were Deputy Chief Frank Falcone, Mr. William Boutwell, and Mrs. Paula LaFrance.

Mr. Thayer introduced two (2) new Council members, Mr. Peter DeBrino and Mrs. Kerry Tuttle. This was Mrs. Tuttle's first meeting with the Council.

## **Old Business**

### **R911**

Mr. Thayer asked DC Falcone if the R911 maps would be updated in FY12. DC Falcone responded that there were not sufficient funds remaining available in this FY to cover the cost of the updated maps. Consequently, they would not be updated. This was corroborated by 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Pellegrini.

### **Antennas at Somers HS and Kibbe-Fuller**

Mr. Thayer asked DC Falcone for a progress report regarding the installation of wide-band antennas at Somers High School and Kibbe-Fuller. DC Falcone responded that the contractor, Marcus Communications, was almost ready to do the work. Mr. Thayer stated that he would be contacting the contractor, as this work has been approved since July of this year.

## **New Business**

### **Election of Chairman**

Mr. Thayer stated that the resignation of Joseph Tolisano had left the Council without a chairman. Mr. Thayer opened the floor to nominations for Chairman. Mrs. Pellegrini nominated Thayer, seconded by Mr. DeBrino. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed and Mr. Thayer was appointed chairman by voice vote.

## **Sheltering**

The thought that Somers might contract with Ellington to provide sheltering was discussed at length. After discussion, it was the Council's consensus that Somers should be prepared to provide its own shelters. During discussion, it was noted that neither the Council members nor the Somers CERT team had the manpower resources to handle sheltering should it require staffing for multiple days. Mrs. Pellegrini indicated that Town employees could be reassigned to sheltering and related duties. Chief Scheissl stated that Somers FD paid members would be able to provide some assistance, and that volunteer members would be available in the evenings to assist, as well.

## **Sheltering Committee**

A Sheltering Committee will be appointed to investigate and report to the Council regarding necessary material, personnel and training requirements to fulfill future demands for sheltering, the provision of commodities and water, and shower points. Mrs. Tuttle indicated that she would like to be on that committee.

## **EOC Relocation**

During an impromptu discussion of Hurricane Irene, Chief Scheissl asked why it had become necessary to move the EOC from Fire HQ to Kibbe-Fuller. Mr. Thayer responded that it was prompted by two reasons. One, the need for Emergency Management to have a facility of its own, as the Fire Department's conference room was crowded and used for many activities, which did not afford Emergency Management sufficient room. Two, DC Falcone had requested that the EOC be removed from Somers Fire HQ. DC Falcone had made the request to the Council after experiencing confusion and crowding while providing mutual aid to Monson, MA, where the EOC and fire department were co-located.

## **Removal of EOC Equipment**

DC Falcone asked what equipment at the present EOC would be moved to the new EOC. Mr. Thayer stated that this would be limited to the 2-meter ham radio and its associated power supply, and that these items had already been moved. All other equipment would remain in place, with the possible exception of the unlisted and unpublished direct telephone line to the EOC, which likely would be moved to the new EOC.

## **Information Dissemination**

Discussion was held regarding the collection and distribution of the most current contact information for radio and TV broadcasting, in both CT and MA. It was determined that a working committee from the Council would review what was already in place, and seek out other information outlets that we might be overlooking. Mrs. LaFrance volunteered to take on that project.

## **Member Alternate**

Mr. Thayer remarked that he knew that Chief Scheissl frequently was unable to attend the Council's meetings, and asked the Chief if he had a designated alternate. Thayer

asked Chief Scheissl to provide a letter to that effect to the Council, and the Chief indicated that a letter would be forthcoming.

### **NO PARKING Signs – Maple Ridge Drive**

The re-installation of NO PARKING signs on the east side of Maple Ridge Drive between its intersection with Main Street and 14 Maple Ridge was discussed. All present said that this was a matter better handled by the Local Traffic Authority (LTA). No position or action was taken or recommended, and the matter was referred back to the LTA.

### **November Meeting Cancelled**

The October meeting had been postponed for several weeks, causing the November meeting date to fall within two weeks. By consensus, the Council agreed to cancel the November meeting, and meet next on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeBrino, seconded by Mr. Rolland, and passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Thayer-Recording

*Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.*