

**Town of Somers
Civil Preparedness Advisory Council
Friday, January 6, 2012
7:30am
Fire House**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 07:32 hours.

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

Also present were Deputy Chief Frank Falcone, Mr. James MacFeat, and Mrs. Paula LaFrance.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes for the December 9, 2011 Special Meeting. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2011 Special Meeting as drafted was made and seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

Shelter Storage Container

There was considerable discussion regarding the selection of a suitable container for the storage of shelter supplies. Both the use of a storage container and a trailer were discussed, and comments made regarding the merits and shortfalls of both storage methods. As no funds currently exist for the purchase of either a container or a trailer, a motion to table this item until the start of the Town's next fiscal year was made and seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

Progress of EOC Relocation

Mr. Thayer reported that significant progress had been made towards the removal of the Recreation Department's records, material, and athletic equipment from the new EOC room. He remarked that shortly the room would require re-keying, installation of telephones, and the installation of a storage room door. Mr. Rolland indicated that he believed the re-keying and door installation could be accomplished within the next two months.

New Business

Reappointment of Members

Mr. Thayer stated that the Board of Selectmen had reappointed member Kerry Tuttle and himself to 2 year terms ending December 22, 2013. He noted that Mr. DeBrino's term also would end on December 22, 2013. He reminded the appointees of their need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Thayer also reported on the membership status of those Council members who are seated by virtue of their position with the Town. The Town Charter specifies that four of the Council's nine members shall be the Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent of Streets, Resident Trooper, and Fire Chief. A question had been raised as to whether some of these individuals could hold their seats or vote, as several were not Town residents or voters. The Town Attorney subsequently issued an opinion that those specified members need not be Town residents or voters to hold their positions, and that they possess full voting authority. In that same opinion, the Town Attorney stated that all other members of the Council must be residents and voters of the Town.

The Town Attorney also responded to a question regarding the use of designees to represent Council members who are unable to attend a meeting. The Town Attorney stated that the Town Charter has no provision for the use of designees. Consequently, member designees may not be counted towards a quorum or cast a vote in any matter before the Council. However, they may present their member's or their own views on matters before the Council, the same as any citizen.

Reports of Committees

Sheltering Committee

Ms. Tuttle reported that she had crafted a revised draft of the Sheltering Annex, which has been forwarded to Mr. Thayer. She further reported that the Town's need to secure shelter volunteers is a serious concern.

CERT Recruitment

Mr. DeBrino reported that CERT will be holding a recruitment drive on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at the Vernon EOC. This drive is being held in conjunction with the Towns of Vernon and Ellington.

Conn. State Action Plan

Copies of the recently released Conn. State Action Plan were distributed to members, and a discussion of the Plan's impacts upon the Town of Somers Emergency Management followed. It is anticipated that some new areas will be added to the Operations Plan that each town is required to produce and maintain, but not until the end of August, 2012 will the actual requirement be made public.

Low Power AM Radio

Mr. Thayer informed the Council of his desire to seek funding for the purchase of a low powered portable AM radio broadcast station. This station would function similar to the Traveler's Advisory stations operated by ConnDOT. The radio would be used to broadcast information concerning emergency incidents in the Town, so that persons stranded in their homes could be kept apprised of recovery and sheltering information. The consensus of the members was that this would be a useful tool. Mr. Thayer will be pursuing this further, and will keep the Council apprised.

UHF Portable Radios for Resident Troopers

Mr. Thayer reported that Storms Irene and Alfred pointed out that the Town had no direct means of communications with its Resident Troopers and Constables. In the past, Town radios were mounted in Troopers vehicles. However, once the Trooper exited his vehicle, he no longer had any communications. Mr. Thayer proposed that the Town purchase portable UHF radios for issue to the Troopers and Constables. These radios would be configured to operate on the various UHF frequencies licensed to the Town, as well as the UHF STOCs frequencies. The radios would be purchased by, and remain the property of Somers Emergency Management. A motion to seek the purchase of at least two radios was made, seconded and passed by voice vote. Mr. Thayer will prepare a Request for Quotation for their purchase.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 0835 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Thayer
Chairman

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.