

**Town of Somers
Civil Preparedness Advisory Council
Friday, December 6, 2013
8:00 AM
Fire House**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Thayer at 0800 hours.

Members present: CSP SGT JoseqClaudio, Mr. Peter DeBrino, Mrs. Karen Hocking, Mr. Tim Kradas, Deputy PWD Todd Rolland, Supt. Maynard Suffredini, and Mr. Dan Thayer.

Members absent: Fire Chief Gary Scheissl, EMD Joseph Tolisano and 1st Selectman Lisa Pellegrini.

Also present: Mr. William Boutwell, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Falcone, Mrs. Paula LaFrance, Mr. James MacFeat, Mrs. Amy Saada, Mr. Michael DAmato and School Media Specialist Peter Stone.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

A motion to waive the reading of the November, 2013 Minutes was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed by voice vote.

A motion to accept the November, 2013 Minutes as distributed was made and seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

2014 Meeting Schedule

The Chair stated that the date of the September, 2014 meeting as shown on the schedule as originally passed at the November meeting was incorrect. A revised schedule was presented for review. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised meeting schedule. There was no discussion. The motion passed by voice vote.

LPFM Station

Mr. Rolland reported that the application for a low power FM station had been submitted to the FCC by the firm that was hired by the Town. No further word was anticipated until after the 1st of January, 2014.

Dr. Suffredini stated that Somers High School has its own LPFM station, call sign WDJW, operating on the frequency of 89.7 MHz. It has an output strength of 10 watts. Mr. Boutwell stated that he had driven around the majority of Somers in an effort to determine the station's coverage, and had found that the station could be heard almost everywhere.

Mr. Peter Stone, the High School's Media Specialist, stated that the station had not had any staff for a number of years. The station had an on-going agreement to re-broadcast the programming of the University of Hartford's radio station, WWUH.

Dr. Suffredini stated that some work would be necessary to equip the station for use by the Town for the broadcasting of emergency information, but he felt that it was worth further discussion.

Mr. Thayer thanked Dr. Suffredini for his offer. However, he felt that until the Town knew the outcome of its own license application, further discussion was not practical, and the matter be tabled for the present.

CERT Update

Mrs. Hocking provided an update regarding Somers CERT activity. CERT has received training in portable radio operation, and will be trained after the 1st of the year regarding downed electrical lines.

She mentioned that a CERT class is likely to be held in March or April of 2014. Somers would be able to send persons to this class if any person showed interest in joining CERT.

New Business

Name Change

The Chairman reminded the Council that the changes to the Somers Town Charter had been approved at the November election. The official name of the Council had been changed from Civil Preparedness Advisory Council to Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council.

Charter-Specified Council Members

The Chair noted that the old Charter language required the seating of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Road Superintendent and Superintendent of School as members of the Council. Questions had been raised regarding the appointment of non-residents holding those positions to the Council. The new Charter language specifically permits the Board of Selectmen to appoint persons in those positions to the Council, regardless of their place of residence.

Reappointment of Members

The Chair noted that all current Council appointments end on December 22, 2013. Any current member who no longer wishes to serve was advised to contact the 1st Selectman's Office prior to the 22nd to notify the Selectmen of their desire not to be reappointed.

Public Works Storm Preparedness

Mr. Rolland informed the Council about the preparations that have been made for this winter's storms. A handout was distributed regarding the preparations made, the instructions to plow operators, snow plow routes and parking lot and sidewalk clearing schedules for Town property.

Loyalty Oath

The Chair stated that following the appointment of members by the Selectmen in December, the Town Clerk will be asked to attend the next meeting so that all members may be sworn in immediately prior to that meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 0827 hours.

Dan Thayer
Chairman

Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.