

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MAY 12, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Richard A. Moccia, Mayor; Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department; Chief Harry Rilling, Norwalk Police Department; Hal Alvord, Department of Public Works; Michelle DeLuca, Director, Emergency Management; Karen DeVecchio, IT Dept.; Tad Diesel, Mayor's Office; Louis Shullman, Norwalk Transit; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital; Bill Mooney, Norwalk Health Department; Adam Bovilsky, Human Relations Department; Ronnie Tella, Red Cross;

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and stated that Nicole Davis with SWRPA was here to review the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

He asked Ms. DeLuca to cover the FEMA declaration first, and then would go to the SWERPA portion after the Mayor arrived.

Emergency Management Update

FEMA Declaration Update

He added that there is a Presidential declaration that Ms. DeLuca will go over in greater detail.

Ms. DeLuca referred to last month's release from the Governor's office announcing an expansion of disaster aid request to include individual assistance to additional counties, and stated that the President has approved this for municipalities, but not individuals. She added that state is appealing and the deadline is Friday, and they hope to have a decision in two-three weeks. She added that if funds become available, or low interest loans reinstated, they will send a city-wide message and press release to residents on how to apply. She stated that the FEMA claims process guidelines use a threshold for uninsured to categorize damages, and complete information will be on the state website for the application procedures.

Chief McCarthy stated that an update on the Disaster Volunteer recruitment and training was that a session was held where approximately 80 recruits attended an introductory session. He added that there would be another session held at the Brien McMahon High School tonight including an overview on how to unload trucks, or how to be set up for distribution, runners or point people as needed.

Mayor Moccia joined the meeting at 3:45p.m.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

Nicole Davis with SWERPA distributed the South Western Region Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and reviewed the regulations, purpose, approach and time line. She highlighted that there was a formation of a Steering Committee and a four phased approach that covered the following areas:

- Phase 1 General Update: Introduction, Planning Process/Evaluation, Plan Maintenance
- Phase 2 Hazard Evaluation and Risk Assessment – Draft June 2010
- Phase 3 Mitigation Strategies – Meet with each town June-July 2010
- Phase 4 Sea Level Rise Evaluation – Currently off the table due to short timeframe

She stated that public review and municipal approval would be August 2010 and the State and FEMA review and approval would be September-October 2010.

Mr. Alvord stated that regarding FEMA's involvement he had expressed his assessment at the County meeting that the area DPW Directors had in April. He added that they were helpful, but it is a specific process that requires a great deal of local involvement and guidance. He referred to the CT Avenue drainage into the I-95 Corridor where the state work was done, but not without a great deal of direction and planning by the City.

Ms. Davis stated that she is aware that Greenwich has issues with the slow process and 100 year storm regulations, and they have expressed dissatisfaction with FEMA not being cooperative.

Social /Health Service Agency Roundtable – May 18

Chief McCarthy asked Mr. DeLuca for an update on the May 18 program, and she stated that an approximately 40 people are planned to attend, and she is hoping to get closer to 50. She added that goal is to have an outline of an emergency preparedness plan where the agencies work together so that the City's most needy residents are covered with services.

Chief Rilling added that it is important that this post-storm evaluation be held with all City departments to clarify roles as a training method for future emergency preparedness to anticipate services needed for peripheral areas as the departments react and interact with each other.

Traffic/Construction Update – DPW

Mr. Alvord stated that there was nothing new to report other than there was a schedule of streets being paved as part of the City paving plan, and he would share the contractor's schedule and have it posted when it is available.

New Items for Discussion

Police Department

Chief Rilling mentioned the shooting on Chestnut Street and as a result they have met with parents at both Columbus and Side by Side Schools, and increased patrol and officer visibility will be in effect.

He added that they have met with the school staff regarding the School Safety Plans and the high School principals have been very cooperative with the lockdown drill procedures. He added that Police Department staff had attended a conference on School Safety and will be working with the schools on updating the plans to reflect building renovations and potential vulnerability for new plans. Chief McCarthy added that the Montgomery county plan has been one of the most progressive plans in the country and he looks forward to the expertise brought by the new Superintendent. Chief Rilling added that Andre will coordinate a plan to be used as a model for school level.

Chief Rilling added that the week of May 15 marks National Memorial Week in honor of fallen police officers, and there will be special memorial dedication as part of the upcoming local Memorial Day services and also will be announced in the local newspapers.

Norwalk Transit Department

Mr. Shullman, Norwalk Transit stated that the FTA will be distributing "See Something, Say Something" brochures to encourage citizens to report situations that could be harmful in nature.

Department of Public Works

Mr. Alvord stated that May 22 was the fourth annual Tree Festival at Cranbury Park from 10-2, adding that this event includes arborists, tree companies with pruning demonstrations, and information on how to assess tree health to prevent damages that occurred during the recent March storms. He added that this year the Red Cross will have a booth and will be on hand as EMS service as there are demonstrations that have a safety hazard factor, and if an accident occurs, it is a great thing that there is a triage response area.

Health Department

Mr. Mooney stated that the Health Department has the "Med Sat" satellite phone on hand and will be programming it for emergency communications. He added that there will be a meeting on June 9 at 2:00 to review mass fatality plans. Chief McCarthy asked if the grant funded position for helping agencies was in place, and Mr. Mooney responded that it should be finalized next month.

Norwalk Hospital

Ms. Lord with the Norwalk Hospital stated that they met today to discuss the Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment program and it will be finalized, signed and provided to the SWERPA as part of the Mitigation Plan.

Information Technology Department

Ms. DelVecchio stated that she continues to work on the updated website, which will be up for the public next month. Chief McCarthy asked if there was a request for correcting any missing information and she replied, yes, a memo has gone out.

Mr. Diesel stated that there has been a regional effort to bring the public information on towns and emergency community functions for local communities and there has been a cooperative effort to share resources and expertise thanks to the efforts of Ms. DeLuca.

Red Cross

Ms. Tella of the Red Cross stated that there has been training for Emergency Shelters and on June 10 there will be an operations simulation for further training, where she expects 150 people to attend. She added that they are pleased to participate in Tree Festival with an emergency booth and will be on hand as free service.

Fire Department

Chief McCarthy stated that following the Times Square bomb scare, Connecticut has been recognized as a staging area and has been included in communications that were previously declared sensitive. He added that there is a more collaborative approach now as a result and it is important for "little things" to be looked at and reported if something seems odd. He added that e-mail bulletins are in place with updates from the regional areas.

Ms. DeLuca stated that the next meeting will be on June 9 at 3:30.

There were no other items for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services