

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;
Michelle DeLuca, Director, Emergency Management;
Hal Alvord, Department of Public Works; Karen DelVecchio, IT Dept.;
Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit; Jennifer Lord, Norwalk Hospital;
Kraz Carlucci, Norwalk Housing Authority.

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and stated that the members as listed were in attendance.

Emergency Management Update

Irene/October Storm Follow-up

Incident Mapping Project: Chief McCarthy asked about the incident mapping project, and Ms. Del Vecchio replied that Joyce is still working on it. Mr. Alvord explained that this needs to be physically posted on the wall at the EOC then to be formulated with access by police patrol cars and the Fire Department for 911 calls and for Customer Service. He stated that this needs to be cataloged and updated with real-time accuracies for dispatchers in order to improve response time.

Ms. Lord asked if this was available on C-Man for the hospitals, and Ms. DelVecchio replied that it was not but that they are looking at having this set up for access by partnering agencies in the City.

Two-Storm Panel

Mr. Alvord stated that the DPW is still clearing debris from Irene. He added that both he and Chief McCarthy have testified with the Two Storm Panel on the lessons learned following the post storm reviews.

He added that in addition to the lessons and recommendations presented at the last meeting, it should be stressed that the first priority should be to clear the roads. He stated that while CLP verifies that the line is cold and safe for DPW crews to move it, there could be a better approach to turn-off and restring at the same time, thus making it a more efficient process. He reiterated that they need to have more crews on the ground clearing the roads as it is really the number one priority that should be addressed.

Mr. Alvord added that they will meet next week with the Water Pollution Control Authority regarding raw sewage run off into Long Island Sound when there is no power as the Sewage Treatment Plant. He explained that here again, the plant has no back-up generator, and there is a

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need for improved generator systems at many city facilities.

Vulnerable Populations/Health Social Service Issues

Mr. Alvord stated that there needs to be an updated plan for social services to address the gaps for seniors, long-term care facilities in terms of evacuation procedures for seniors. Chief McCarthy added that since there is no head of social services, the authority is blurred and rather than it falling on Mr. Callahan in the Health Department, there needs to be a better plan.

He added that there needs to be 24-hour coverage with a health professional at the Shelter, and that there was coverage for animals, there were no nurses on staff. He gave the example that there was no procedure for someone to get a Tylenol, as there was no health professional to dispense even over the counter medication.

Winter Weather Preparedness

Ms. Deluca stated that there is a snow brochure that informs citizens on procedures for snow removal, and Chief McCarthy added that an updated press release has been issued from the Mayor's office to inform the public about customer service procedures. Mr. Alvord added that there are problem streets where residents need to move cars and they will be putting flyers on vehicles. He then explained that the Blue Brine system informs motorists to stay 500 feet back from the vehicles during this application that turns blue when it hits the pavement.

He explained that this is a pre-treatment method that will be used in school driveways in particular as an ice-melt measure. Chief McCarthy asked about salt and sand, and Mr. Alvord replied that salt is the only thing that is used and that on occasion in an emergency for a small area, they will use sand for areas for the Fire Department. He added that providing areas for snow removal pile-ups should be looked at when there are building renovation projects such as the Fire Department. He explained that it is important for the architect to look at the outside lot areas to establish a place to put the plowed snow.

Mr. Alvord added that there needs to be better collaboration with building custodians in some schools, such as Wolfpit, where the driveway and drop off areas are difficult to clear. He stated that it would help if the custodians do not put the snow that was plowed back into the street as this does not help with snow removal. Mr. Gorian explained that they do have two small trucks and they can be sent out to assist with snow removal where needed, and he offered to work with DPW to get this done.

Update on the Fire Department and EOC Relocation

Chief McCarthy stated that they are now at 141 East Avenue and will be there through August 2013. He noted that while Greenwich has spent \$2million for their relocation plan, Norwalk is at \$255,000.

He added that there is no emergency power at the Lockwood House, and they hope to have generators brought in for use there for the bottom floor.

Emergency Planning w/ NPS – update

Mr. Mark Gorian stated that they are working on the updated school emergency plans and he expects it to be finished next week. He added that they have 8-9 out of the 19 schools done with updated contact information using the new template format, and he Central Office plan in particular needs to be addressed, as there is no plan.

Chief McCarthy added that when there is a situation at the school, the building principal acts as the person in charge, but there needs to be a communications plan from the Superintendent's office. He added that he plans to be meeting with the new COO to address this soon.

Department/Partner Updates

Police Department

Chief Rilling stated that he had nothing new to report.

DPW

Mr. Alvord stated that in addition to the update on the post storm report, in terms of capital budget requests, he is recommending an upgrade to the City Hall generator system that will cost \$750,000 but it will cover the entire building. He added that this is absolutely necessary to keep City Hall running.

Mr. Alvord stated that when it comes to fliers, he finds that when they are sent to the schools, they get put into back backs, taken home and parents do read them when it comes from the school. He added that the brochure on snow removal procedures are printed and are posted on the website and that for many streets it is critical to have vehicles moved in order to provide access for snow plow trucks.

Norwalk Transit Department

Mr. Schulman, Norwalk Transit stated that there was nothing new to report.

Red Cross

No representative was in attendance.

Norwalk Hospital

Ms. Lord stated that the parking garage is ahead of schedule. She extended a note of appreciation to Lt. Resnick for his assistance last Sunday with the recent bomb scare and explained that it was an unknown package that turned out to be a coffee pot. She added that he was able to give them advice on how to handle it with the media so as to minimize or avoid a public alert.

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Information Technology Department

Ms. Del Vecchio stated that they are working on the mapping project and she hopes to have it available for public access or at the least to have the City partner organizations to be able to access it. She added that once the data is completely loaded and that they are working on programming it in such a way that they should be able to drop it to have multiple uses.

Chief McCarthy asked if there is multiple use or cross applications for things like snow removal streets and construction street closings. She replied that she does anticipate this being programmed in such a way to have multiple access and applications for the City Departments.

Ms. Del Vecchio added that the brochure is on the home page along with fire safety tips for the holidays, which does get many hits. She informed Ms. Deluca that they have worked with Purchasing with ordering MDT's for the EOT along with I-Pads.

New Items for Discussion

Website (Public and Hidden EM page)

Ms. Deluca stated that they are on Face Book and Twitter and that the use of social media has been successful by other communities.

Ms. DeLuca stated that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 3:30 here at City Hall in room 231. Chief McCarthy said that they have cancelled some meetings due to the lack of an agenda, and for future meetings that if there are items to be covered to e-mail Michelle, and she will put them on the agenda.

There were no other items for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services