

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Erin Herring, Assistant City Clerk;
Karen Del Vecchio, Director of Information & Technology;
Louis Schulman, Norwalk Transit; Chris Hansen, Fire Marshal
Hal Alvord, DPW; Steven Birney, DPW;
Paul Lourd, Norwalk Amateur Radio Club.

STAFF: Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;
Michelle DeLuca, Director, Emergency Management.

Call to Order

Fire Chief McCarthy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Emergency Operations

Chief McCarthy reported that an after action meeting on the Oyster festival will be done tomorrow. It was noted that the fast storm was handled well with no injuries and all first responders on site quickly. Chief added that there needs to be a more complete map of tents along the midway, as it was difficult to locate those vendors where tents had toppled over.

Ms. Herring reported that the lack of a central communications or P.A. system is needed for evacuation communications.

It was noted that these suggestions will be incorporated into the plans for future events.

Chief McCarthy noted that emergency action plans for the Boat Show and other events are underway.

Mr. Alvord noted that there needs to be a more comprehensive map of streets that are inside of complexes such as private or gated communities. There was discussion on naming of streets in site plans and to follow the existing guidelines for construction developments.

There was discussion on a new event form that will help to communicate to the Mayor's office events that require permitting through the departments at City Hall. Ms. Herring reported that there are two events that she was not aware of – The Beer Tasting at Oyster Shell Park and the Chowdifest at Calf Pasture in October.

School Emergency Update

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Chief McCarthy stated that the management of the school emergency operations is transitioning to the Board of Education. Dr. Rivera has made emergency preparedness a priority and now that there is a teacher in charge – Bob Killackey, the schools will come under the plan in place. The next exercise will be evacuation of schools to another location—Brookside to McMahan and there is much work to do in the planning of this drill.

Chief McCarthy noted that they will continue the District Wide School Safety meetings every three months on Oct21 Jan 22 and March 26 with the steering committee to continue meeting monthly

Chief added that after municipal buildings are next for facility assessment. There was discussion on the City Hall Public Address system paging upgrade installation and testing of the new system that will be rescheduled following adjustments being made.

City Hall Notification Options – Motorola Radios

Ms. DeVecchio stated that they met in August with the vendors on the RFP and Gerald Folley's office for the installation. They reached out to Building Management and there is a meeting scheduled for next Friday to get cost estimates for the next capital budget cycle.

Ms. Deluca stated that scheduling for IPAD training will be done soon, and explained that there will be training on the system and the next steps include establishing user access.

Mr. Alvord asked if the EOC is set up as classroom style or if it is work station like an emergency, and Ms. Deluca replied that the room was set up as it would be during an actual emergency operations event. There was discussion on how the incidents are tracked and updated and the ways data can be searched by category.

Ms. Deluca noted that FEMA grants for Shorefront park Sandy claims are still in progress. She noted that future claims must go through City resources as the paperwork is a huge burden on Emergency Operations capability.

Department Updates/Roundtable Comments

Norwalk Transit

Mr. Schulman stated that he had requested a copy of the City Hall security guide and had not received it. He spoke about an incident that a Transit worker had threatened harm to managers and was arrested and other employees intervened to assist. He noted that protocol was followed but they need to adopt official security guidelines. He stated that has announced his retirement at the end of the year.

There was discussion of GPS systems and cameras for vehicle location tracking. He noted that they are replacing a few vehicles and they will have inside cameras and GPS systems. There was discussion on the capability of sharing information and testing with AT&T secured systems with

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cameras and modem.

Norwalk Amateur Radio Group

Mr. Lourd spoke of the recent test of the radio feeds at Veteran's Park and the capability that exists with the link through radio dishes. He explained that as part of a demonstration project, to show the technical capabilities of the GNARC members, several hams have worked to setup a video link from the 2014 Norwalk Oyster Festival back to emergency managers at Fire HQ. This will allow real time viewing of the amusement ride area of the park.

In the future GNARC will be able to deploy this technology rapidly to assist emergency managers in getting eyes on views during critical events. The radio link originates at a light pole in Vets park and is then received at the top of the hospital and relayed to Fire HQ with an IP camera.

There was discussion of the drone capability and FAA regulations on security cameras on PD labels and web cameras on fire trucks. There will be a separate meeting on the scope of the project and to discuss server upgrades to accommodate the data drain on the systems.

I.T. Dept.

Ms. DelVecchio reported that there infrastructure improvements in progress with the network supplier and back up archives in place for faster band service. She added that the IPADs for fire apparatus are being set up with connection on the fiber phone lines with the state fiber network.

It was noted that CCN thanked Emergency Management for using the space for the Fairfield County Training in February at the EOC

DPW

GIS – Mr. Birney reported that they are waiting for the upload of data to the link off the City Website. He added that there will be a presentation to the BET on October 2.

Mr. Alvord noted that there are many advantages of the GPS technology as it applies to mapping and the sub-systems.

Mr. Alvord noted that the new generator is being mounted at the City Hall location. There was discussion on limited personnel available that have experience to handle installation other than Rodney, who is the only staff member with training.

Mr. Alvord stated that they are still looking for a warehouse location for large equipment during emergency evacuations. He noted that now that the Data Center is at Norden that is no longer a viable location, they have looked at the National Armory facility as a possibility but the location is a bit far. He asked for suggested sites to be communicated to him for evaluation

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Next Meeting - It was noted that next meeting would be on October 8, 2014.

There were no other items for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services