

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
**HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**MARCH 25, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Richard Bonenfant, Chair; David Jaeger; Nicholas Kydes;  
Clyde Mount; Joanne Romano; Travis Simms

STAFF: Ellen Wink, City Clerk; Tim Callahan, Health Director;  
Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management; Denis McCarthy, Fire  
Chief; Harry Rilling, Police Chief; Susan Holland and Lt. Gale,  
Norwalk Police

**1. Welcome and Roll Call**

Mr. Bonenfant called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and called the Roll.

**2. Approval of Minutes: January 28, 2010**

The minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**3. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**4. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**5. New Business:**

**Police Department:**

Mr. Bonenfant said that in the future he hopes to receive the meeting packets the weekend before the meeting. Ms. Wink said that they are looking at getting Kindles for everyone. Mr. Kydes asked if that would preclude getting hard copies. Ms. Wink said that it would. Mr. Kydes said that he does not agree with that.

**\*\* MR. JAEGER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO COGENT SYSTEMS, INC., AS A SOLE SOURCE VENDOR FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE FINGERPRINTING UNIT TO BE USED BY THE IDENTIFICATION BUREAU IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,250.00. FUNDS WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COPS TECHNOLOGY GRANT, ACCOUNT# 35309A5781.”**

Chief Rilling explained that they are the sole source for this item because this is the only system that is compatible with the State Police data base. He described how the system works. It will be paid through a COPS technology grant and there will be no cost to the City. He explained that they received a \$1.3 million grant and there is approximately \$1 million left. Chief Rilling said that each item over a specific threshold will go before the Common Council for approval. The remainder of the grant has to be spent before the end of the year, but they can apply for extensions.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if this was a mobile unit. Chief Rilling said that it would be used in a building with internet service.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO “AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA, INC., FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT TO UPGRADE THE POLICE AND FIRE RADIO SYSTEMS, PRICING AS PER STATE OF CONNECTICUT DOIT CONTRACT AWARD #06ITZ0019, FOR TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$318,354.00; \$222,134.00 FROM ACCOUNT # 35309B5743 AND \$96,220 FROM ACCOUNT #35309A5743.”**

**AND TO “AUTHORIZE CHIEF HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER(S) TO THE ABOVE AGREEMENT FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000 FROM THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS PREVIOUSLY LISTED.”**

Chief Rilling explained that channels 1 and 2 on the radio system are in danger of catastrophic failure. The system is antiquated. He added that the Fire system is also in bad shape.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if this is fully funded by grant funding. Office Holland said that it was fully covered. She said that they are in jeopardy of the radios crashing. Chief Rilling said that this vendor supplies the vast majority of police departments.

Chief McCarthy said that it was commendable that the Police department is cooperating with the Fire department. He said that he appreciates the partnership. Mr. Mount asked if this will allow both departments to talk. Chief McCarthy said that it did not, but they are working on a project to communicate with the Police department and other agencies.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. SIMMS MOVED TO “AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SIRCHIE ACQUISITION COMPANY, LLC, DBA SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABORATORIES, THE PREFERRED VENDOR, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2010 FORD E450, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, TO BE USED BY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES AS AN EVIDENCE COLLECTION VEHICLE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$171,000. FUNDS WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COPS TECHNOLOGY GRANT, ACCOUNT # 35309A573H.”**

Chief Rilling said that this is a vehicle they are looking to purchase through the capital budget. This will give the detectives all of the equipment they need at a crime scene and will allow them to maintain the integrity of the evidence. He said that the bid went out with the disclaimer that the City has the right to refuse the low bidder. Sirchie offered them training in the use of the vehicle. They also make all of the items in the vehicle. They are highly regarded.

Chief Rilling said that the low bidder was located in Ohio and it would be very expensive to transport the vehicle to Connecticut. The users will be sent to help design the equipment compartments. This will be paid through the COPS grant.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Bonenfant told Chief Rilling that this Committee feels left out and that they want to find a solution that is amiable to everyone. Chief Rilling said that they have a web based log system that the press can access. He offered to provide access. Mr. Bonenfant asked Chief Rilling to help them not simply rubber stamp grants. He said that the Committee wants to be able to see the same things that the press sees. He said that they do not want to interfere, but want to be informed.

Chief Rilling said that he gets daily briefings; however, some cannot be disclosed to the public. Mr. Mount said that they want to be proactive; they get questions from their constituents. He added that they want to understand and be supportive. Chief Rilling said that if they have questions, they could call him and he will respond within acceptable disclosure rules.

Referring to the recent storm emergency, Mr. Mount asked if the reverse 911 could ring on a cell since some people with cable phones had no service. Chief Rilling suggested that people register their cell numbers on the opt in page on the City's website. Chief McCarthy said that they are adding an item to the agenda because they dropped the Code Red system.

Mr. Bonenfant said that it would be ideal if they could have the same access to information as the press. Mr. Simms told Chief Rilling that his constituents asked how they would be informed if there is a murder or serious crime in South Norwalk. Chief Rilling said that they generally hold a press conference. He said that The Norwalk Hour and the Stamford Advocate post these items on their website immediately. Cable also provides information. Chief Rilling said that they would use the reverse 911 system if there is on-going danger.

Chief Rilling said that they balance the public's right to know with the integrity of the crime scene. The first few hours following a criminal act are very important. If there is a continuing emergency, they send out a general alert.

**Health Department:**

**\*\* MS. ROMANO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE INDEMNIFICATION/HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PHYSICIANS EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF NORWALK, CT.\*\***

Mr. Callahan explained that the Legal Department felt that they should indemnify themselves. He said that they employ two part time doctors and the scope of their practice is very limited.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the City has catastrophic insurance. Mr. Callahan said that it does. Mr. Jaeger asked if other communities do this. Mr. Callahan said that very few communities provide this scope of service. He said that their services are limited to immunizations, STD clinic and physicals up to age 5, which is limited to those without insurance. Mr. Callahan said that the well child clinic operates twice a month and they see about 30 people a month at the travel clinic. He said that the criteria for the travel clinic depends upon where the patient is going.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MOUNT)**

**\*\* MR. MOUNT MOVED TO “AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL APPLICATIONS, AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS AND IMPLEMENT THE *WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN’S PROGRAM* WITH THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CT, FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2009 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$212,821.00”**

Mr. Callahan explained the WIC program. He said that it has been in existence for 30 years and eligibility depends on income. This is a federal program through the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Callahan said that Stamford is the lead agency. Norwalk has been waiting for the contract from the City of Stamford since October 2009. He said that this program is self sufficient. Ms. Romano said that the clients receive items that are essential to feeding their children. Mr. Callahan said that this is retroactive to October 2009.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chief McCarthy explained that they were in the midst of storm clean up when they were supposed to provide this information. During the storm, City Hall lost power. It took a trained operator from Everbridge 40 minutes to send the emergency messages. The following day they went through the same process and it took them 45 minutes. In reviewing the two experiences, only 11% of the calls were actually received.

Chief McCarthy said that they dropped the contract with Code Red because they got free service from Everbridge. On Sunday morning, Mayor Moccia told them to go back to the Code Red system.

Mr. Simms left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

**\*\* MR. JAEGER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE THE RENEWAL OF THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (CODE RED) CONTRACT FOR MARCH 14, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011 FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FUTURE CONTRACTS WITH THE SAME VENDOR FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

Chief McCarthy explained that the Code Red system will be used for all emergency notifications, except for law enforcement notices. The caller id will say City of Norwalk. He said that the Code Red notifications have a 60% pick up rate. Chief McCarthy said that they are careful with the notification format. Mr. Kydes said that there have to be the same standards between the Police and Fire departments.

Ms. DeLuca said that Everbridge is supposed to be used in life threatening situations and they are trying to get a definition of life threatening. Mr. Kydes said that they have to think locally, because that is what concerns them.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. ROMANO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) UNDER THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$36,175 (WITH A LOCAL MATCH OF \$9,044)**

Chief McCarthy said that there are not enough funds in the budget to cover the match. He said that they are seeing a significant drop in the installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in the poor sections of the City. This grant will allow the Fire Marshall to develop a program of education and installation.

Chief McCarthy explained that in three or more family homes, the Life Safety Code authorizes the Fire Marshall to inspect the home. He said that they encourage voluntary compliance and will institute a fee if the client is not compliant.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6. Discussion**

Mr. Bonenfant asked Chief McCarthy how the City did during the storm. Chief McCarthy said that over 300 residents sustained property damage. On Friday and Saturday morning the weather report was for low wind speeds. He said that their response, without warning, was very good. He said that the DPW and CL&P worked hand in hand. FEMA teams are doing field surveys early next week. Ms. DeLuca said that they were in communication with partner agencies; Meals on Wheels was operational.

There were discrepancies in what was reported because channel 12 combined municipal and individual damages. Chief McCarthy said that channel 12 did round the clock broadcasts during winter storms and called constantly. Ms. DeLuca said that she called

them to get information out about the storm, but they said that they had already broadcast information about the storm. He said that this is the worst storm since Hurricane Gloria.

Chief McCarthy said that Ms. DeLuca got them back in business on Sunday. He added that Ms. Barden in DPW did a significant job.

## 7. Adjournment

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services

