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Office of Emergency Management
Minutes
September 8, 2014

Present

Councilman Robert P. Santangelo
Councilman Sebastian Giuliano
Councilwoman Hope Kasper
Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski
Councilman Thomas J. Serra
Deputy Emergency Management Director Angel Fernandez

Meeting Called to Order:

The Chair briefly stepped out of the meeting, and Councilwoman Kasper called the meeting to order at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes:

On motion of Councilman Serra, seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski, the minutes of June 9, 2014, were unanimously approved.

Public Hearing:

Councilwoman Kasper opened the public hearing due to the brief absence of the Chairman.

Doug Brown, Emergency Management volunteer, went on record to thank police, fire, the Mayor, and the Public Safety Committee for support of the emergency management efforts in town. He stated that the department has grown quickly and has made large strides. He commented that George Dunn had a view of what Emergency Management should become, and Director Driska and Deputy Director Fernandez have now seen that vision to fruition. All agencies have also shown confidence in men and women in Emergency Management.

Councilman Santangelo returned to Chair the meeting.

Mr. Brown went on to share his concern with the department: The Communications truck is down; the fleet is aging, but he stated that on the positive side, Emergency Management now has the capability of the digital transfer of information on radio waves; Many quality, passionate people are volunteering. They encompass state workers, a certified technician, a programmer, a comptroller and a mechanic. The number of women who have joined as volunteers has doubled.

Deputy Director Fernandez stated that the department trucks that are being traded in are very old and in need of major repairs. He has been very vocal to try to secure vehicles from all other sources. Deputy Chief Ross and Deputy Director Fernandez drafted a letter to Senator Blumenthal to not shut down the 1033 program but to open to emergency management services. Deputy Director Fernandez stated that

although a new 2013 truck was just purchased, the department has submitted another request for CNR funds for a truck with a heavier lift gate. Councilman Santangelo expressed his opinion that the Communications Truck should be a priority. Councilman Santangelo commented that Emergency Management did not have a CNR before. Councilwoman Kasper advised that although they have not, there is a Miscellaneous CNR line item for purchases that have been previously identified.

Budget Expenditure Report

Deputy Director Fernandez provided a copy of the Budget Expenditure Report. There weren't any questions from the Committee on the report.

Uniform line item will be expended quarterly, because more new people are volunteering. The department has more women and more seniors involved, and will work with the necessary tailoring.

Councilman Santangelo asked about the status on Cert training program. Deputy Director Fernandez stated that there is a question as to how many active members to bring to Cert training. There needs to be a long-term commitment. Wesleyan Cert has been active. George Dunn picked up the Cert training again within the last few months because prior Cert trainer has not been readily available. George Dunn has expressed an interest in building up Cert training in South Farms area and Westfield area.

Councilwoman Kleckowski suggested adding a new line item in the budget entitled "Cert Training."

Councilwoman Kasper inquired about the reason that the Workers Comp line item was included in the Emergency Management budget. The Risk Manager needs to be consulted as to the cost and whether General Liability insurance would be more appropriate to cover volunteers and/or the City during certain events. Deputy Director Angel Fernandez advised that he will advise the Director Driska to look into this question further.

Councilwoman Kleckowski inquired about the Administrative functions of the department and that a part-time worker should be hired for the department.

Monthly Report

Deputy Director Fernandez reported that volunteer hours for the month of August 2014 were reported to be 377.25 hours. Referencing the 2010 Independent Sector website for placing a value on volunteer hours, the Director estimated the value of the volunteer time in dollars to be \$10,476.23 (377.25 hrs. X \$27.77). According to the Deputy Director, the volunteer hours may have been light because the department was getting ready for the Active Shooter drill and numbers had not been logged.

Old Business

The Health Department will be providing funding for a recruitment sign for EM building. They also will be providing funding for advertising for MRC.

Deputy Director Fernandez advised that 200 hours were put into SOP, but now the department will be looking into brochures for recruitment.

Councilwoman Kleckowski advised that the Oasis Center, administered by Peter Galgano, is now open at MXCC. Councilwoman Kleckowski has spoken to Mr. Galgano about the possibility of recruiting the veterans at the Center for Emergency Management volunteer opportunities. She encouraged the Deputy Director to contact him.

The Emergency Management Department was involved in the following activities during the last month:

- 1) Helped out state health department with water problem in New London;
- 2) Provided lighting for the City of Middletown's music series every Tuesday;
- 3) Assisted State Health Department with Keney Park Health Clinic in Hartford;
- 4) Participated in Wesleyan Cert Training
- 5) Conducted Hazmat training
- 6) Active shooter drill
- 7) Joint training with Wesleyan and EM – concept doing joint training in case they need to use our equipment we do not need to deploy EM personnel

The department will assist with the upcoming "Stand Down" event at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill.

Councilman Santangelo recommended that the Deputy Director look into the questions raised about Worker's Comp and to also begin focusing on the replacement of a Communications vehicle for the department.

Adjournment

On motion of Councilwoman Kasper second by Councilman Giuliano, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:31 p.m.