

Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
May 11, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton: Jim McCusker

Deep River:

Essex: Phil Miller

Killingworth:

Lyme:

Old Lyme:

Old Saybrook: Mike Pace

Westbrook: Tony Palermo

Staff: Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Amy Cabaniss, Joel Severance, Wini Olson

Guests: Jim Rode, Exec. Director Estuary Transit District, Doris Sanstrom, Chairman of the Estuary Transit District, Lt. Mike Spera, Old Saybrook

I. Chairman Mike Pace called the meeting to order in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road at 8:50 AM

II. Minutes

Tony Palermo moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Phil Miller and approved with Jim McCusker abstaining.

III. Old Business

A. HHW

1. Collections

Chairman Pace asked Amy Cabaniss to report on the progress of the Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Amy reported that 153 households participated in the Clinton collection and 89 households came to Essex in the rain. Phil Miller commented that he found the ad for the collection difficult to locate in the Main Street News. Amy explained that she has no control over the placement of the ad. A general discussion of the various types of advertising being utilized for the project ensued.

2. Insurance

Procurement of insurance is in progress. It will be separate policy with AIG, negotiated through CIRMA.

3. Electronics Collection

Since CRRA has not secured an agent to receive electronics, the special collection must be postponed until this fall.

B. Mass Distribution Center

1. Health Clinics

Mike Spera reported that the Small Pox clinic and the POD are being combined. New delegates are being appointed from each of the towns. They must review the material prior to a planned "table top walk through".

Mike reported that a good line of communication has been established between Old Saybrook and the Chatham Health district. As an example, he cited that the state training session includes only one representative from each district, even when two clinics are planned. Thad King asked that Bill Cox of the Chatham Health District staff represent District 9. Old Saybrook graciously acquiesced. At the last moment, after other plans had been made, another opening was announced.

2. Communications

Lt. Spera is focusing on synchronizing the communication systems used by first responders in the region. He noted that the State Police has now moved to an 800 MHz band. Phil Miller mentioned that Essex received a federal grant through Rep. Simmons to purchase higher (400 MHz) band communications equipment. Mike Pace noted that Old Saybrook had used a similar grant for air packs. Tony Palermo mentioned that the State Department of Public Safety has provided the towns with 800 MHz radios with the proviso that no other channels may be added. He suggested that, in an emergency, personnel would much more apt to use equipment that they are familiar with. Joel Severance noted that this was the concern of the State Inter-operational Committee. Lt. Spera stated that the Inter-operational Committee is now a sub-committee of the Homeland Security Council. Phil Miller noted that the problem even exists at the local level. In Essex, as the Fire Department goes to the 400 MHz band, the Ambulance Service is left out. It was agreed that cooperation is essential. Chairman Pace suggested that a good beginning is to share information on communication plans.

Representative Spallone agreed that cooperation is essential and mentioned that it is easier to get grants for regional projects.

It was agreed that each Selectman will bring his local communications expert to the June LCVSA meeting. Joel Severance suggested that representatives of the Middlesex Fire Chiefs Association also be invited.

3. Citizens Action

Chairman Mike Pace asked Lt. Mike Spera to follow up on the Citizens Corps. The Valley Shore Emergency Management Directors will coordinate the corps. When asked about retrieving the \$50,000 in grant money, Lt Spera noted that previously a lot of paper corps had been funded. The Homeland Security Council has determined that henceforth a corps must do something prior to getting the money. The funds not awarded in 2004 will be diverted to the Capital Region, which has an active council.

C. Pump Out Boat

Phil Miller noted that Joel Severance had provided members with copies of the budget and with financial statements for 2003 and 2004. Joel noted that the budget is Revision 2 for 2005. Still to come are a MOU, or interlocal agreement, for the towns to sign.

A new boat is out of the question for this year. It requires three months to build after the contract has been formalized. Essex has agreed to purchase and own the boat. The cost is 100% reimbursable.

Mike Spera asked about liability. The Town of Lyme handles all operations. The town hires and insures the crew and carries liability insurance on the operation of the boat.

Rep. Spallone asked if the Connecticut River is a “no discharge area”. It is not but designation is pending for the river and the eastern end of Long Island Sound.

Mike Pace asked about fees for pumping. The operation is allowed to charge up to \$5 per pump out. He feels strongly that the service should be paid for by its users. He feels that it is wrong to provide a free service for those who are able to pay.

James Spallone and Tony Palermo noted that to date, there has been no expense for the local towns. Phil Miller commended Mike Pace for defending his principles but asked him to consider joining the program. He will consider it.

D. Natural Hazards

Jean Davies announced that after three years of preparation, the Natural Hazard reports for each town and for the region are nearly complete. She displayed a hard copy of the draft of the Essex report. She explained that she used \$300 of cartridges for printing so far. The reports must be redone after the FEMA review and fine tuned again after local review. She has prepared a draft report in CD form for each town.

Chairman Pace commended her on choosing the CD form for local distribution of the preliminary report.

Lt. Spera asked her to make a presentation to the Valley Shore Emergency Management Directors Association. She agreed to do so.

IV. **Other Business**

A. Legislative Report

1. Conveyance Tax

Representative Spallone expressed disappointment that although the local option conveyance tax that he had sponsored made it through both the Environment Committee and the Planning and Development Committee, it was held by the Finance Committee. He was happy that Rep. Guiliano had cooperated with him so that the bill was supported by both parties. He reported that the extension of the sunset of the current conveyance tax is still alive.

When asked if it was opposed by the Real Estate lobby, he agreed that had been. He noted that he felt that they were working against their own best interest since it is optional and increases the value of the property.

Phil Miller noted that the bill had been opposed by Senator Daily.

2. Bottle bill

The proposed extension of the Bottle Bill prompted a discussion of escheats.

3. Probate

The probate bill is still under consideration.

4. Ethics

Chairman Pace commented that the newest adjustments to the Ethics bill exempts all non-profits except CRRA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Winifred T. Olson, Clerk