

Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
June 8, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

Chester:	Martin Heft
Clinton:	Jim McCusker
Deep River:	
Essex:	
Killingworth:	David Denvir
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	
Westbrook:	Tony Palermo
Guests:	Chuck Beck of the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and George J. Pohorilak Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services, Patrolman Mike Gardner
Staff:	Linda Krause, Joel Severance, Wini Olson, Amy Cabaniss

- I.** In the absence of the Chairman and the vice-chairman, Secretary Timothy C. Griswold called the meeting to order in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road at 8:40 AM

II. **Minutes**

The minutes of the May 11 meeting were reviewed. Action was deferred until a quorum could be achieved.
Round table introductions were performed.

III. **Emergency Communications**

Patrolman Mike Gardner began the discussion with a description of the efforts made in Old Saybrook to modernize internal communications between departments. The Fire Department, Police and EMS realized that their equipment was ten to twenty years old. While doing the research to upgrade it, they recognized that, in case of emergency, local government, park and Recreation, life guards, schools and others needed to be able to communicate with one another. They did research on frequencies, repeater channels, planning, funding and design. Martin Associates of Massachusetts assisted them.

George Pohorilak mentioned that the Valley shore needs VHF frequencies but there are not enough channels available.

Joel Severance asked Patrolman Gardner about interoperability between Old Saybrook and Clinton. The technology is satisfactory at the field level but not so good while actually in the field.

Tim Griswold asked about the cost. It has not yet been determined but will probably be between half and three quarters of a million dollars for the Old Saybrook system.

Chuck Beck added that it was determined three years ago that there is a need for departments to be able to talk to one another. Fortunately, Skip Thomas, then of OPM, understood and helped to set up an Ad Hoc Committee for interoperability that resulted in the establishment of the ICALL/ITAC system which is an analog component of the 800MHz system. ICALL/ITAC is an operable system that allows incident commanders to communicate with one another. The state purchased the radios and provided training for all communities. Low power, hand held still seem more effective for on scene use. A Project funding request form is included in the information packet that was distributed at the meeting. Chuck Beck assured the Selectmen that his office can offer an answer within 48 hours.

Linda Krause asked if the Selectmen currently get involved in communications decisions. Tony Palermo noted that the Selectmen are involved in the funding of the project more than the “nuts and bolts”. Chuck Beck suggested that if a regional system were to be set up, it could make better use of a very limited number of frequencies. Linda suggested that the Health Department be included.

When asked about support for the 911 system, George Pohorilak explained that DPUC has allowed the surcharge on the phone bill to be almost doubled, from 19 cents to 37 cents a month to be devoted to the 911 system.

IV Old business

A. HHW

Amy Cabaniss reported that 78 families responded to the satellite collection in Killingworth on June 4, 2005. She reminded Selectmen of the dates of forthcoming collections and distributed samples of the insert that will be mailed with the tax bill in communities that need to increase participation. Amy announced that Ralph Eno will only be with the project until September. An ad for his successor has been placed in the Pictorial and in trade journals. Amy displayed a walk-way sign and asked each selectman to pick one up at the end of the meeting.

Linda Krause announced that insurance has been arranged through CIRMA. Details are being reviewed.

A. Natural Hazard Mitigation

Jean Davies announced that the plans have been submitted to FEMA.

V. New Business

B. “Smart Machine”

David Denvir asked if other Selectmen have signed the “Smart Machine” agreement. It was explained that the Smart Machine is the unmanned portable monitor that reminds drivers of the speed they are traveling. There are several agreements among several towns coordinated by State Police Troop F.

Cheater covers insurance for the one on the shore.

B. Report from the Legislature

Betty Wagner responded that Congress just reconvened. Most of the attention is focused on the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Committee).

C. July meeting.

Neither Clinton nor Westbrook Selectmen will be available in July. It was agreed not to meet unless it becomes urgent.

D. Minutes

The minutes were approved as previously reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary