

DURHAM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting, April 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. In attendance were committee members Frank DeFelice, Wendy Manemeit, Dan Murphy and Bill Smith. The posted agenda was approved.

The removal of snow leaves and ice ordinance that the committee formulated was passed. There was some discussion on the official definition of debris.

Dan Murphy reported to the committee about the latest Emergency Management Committee meeting. They are planning for the next Durham Fair, reviewing concerns from last year. The Durham Fair Committee made its concerns and comments about State Police coverage during the fair to the Emergency Management committee. Plans for emergency sheltering are proceeding. The EM committee has been discussing emergency communications testing with CT Emergency Management Region 2 (Middletown area). Durham is in Region 3.

A letter will be sent out by the Public Safety Committee to the heads of fire/ambulance/emergency management and Resident state trooper to discuss a Joint Chiefs meeting among all Town of Durham Public Safety boards. Some options discussed were public/executive session or open to public. The committee suggested that the beginning of the meeting be in executive session, then the remainder of the time open to the public. An approximate date for the meeting was decided to be Tuesday, June 3. Frank will see if this is agreeable to all involved.

Jim Rossi arrived at 7:00 PM. The First Selectman asked the chairman to look at options for future additional police coverage. Some of the options discussed by the committee were an additional resident trooper, hiring constables, purchasing time from the State Police, similar to how troopers are contracted for the fair and regionalization. Frank will invite Middlefield First Selectman Brayshaw to our next meeting to discuss his ideas for regionalization and possible cooperation with Durham and other towns in the region. Frank presented a report from the Vermont State Police on "cooperation and coordination of more than one law enforcement agency" in the state of Vermont, noting many of the similarities of concerns of Vermont and Connecticut public safety officials. The committee members will read the report and start to collect data for the report to the Board of Selectmen.

Lieutenant Pierce, new commander of Troop F and Resident Trooper DiGioia arrived at 7:30 to meet the committee. Future policing needs and options were discussed.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50. The next meeting is May 13, 2008, 6:30 PM at the Durham Library.

Respectfully submitted, James M. Rossi