

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee (PH&S) was held on January 21, 2010, at 7:30 pm in room 213 of Town Hall. Eight of 12 members were present representing a quorum.

Members present: Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chair; James Patrick, Vice Chair; Dr. Robert C. George; Susan LeHan; Shelley Carder; Mary Guimond, Clerk; Sue Maguire; and Donna Melz

Members absent: Barry Baldwin; Michael Burke; James Cameron; and Jennifer Sommer

Guest: Chief Duane Lovello

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Schoonmaker, who welcomed newest member Shelly Carder from District 2. Chair Schoonmaker reviewed the meeting schedule for the year with the reminder that a meeting will take place at 7:15 pm in room 213 on Monday, January 25, 2010, prior to the RTM meeting.

Since we were awaiting the arrival of guest Chief Lovello, Chair Schoonmaker addressed the last item on the agenda regarding changes in the Town ordinances recommended by the director of the Darien Health Department at the behest of the Rules Committee. Since she has been involved in this project from the outset, Ms. Guimond volunteered to work with other RTM committees to report on the changes to the RTM, tentatively scheduled for the March RTM meeting.

Chief Lovello arrived and described RTM agenda item #10-1, reimbursement for video training production equipment in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. Carder asked if acquisition of such equipment will result in cost savings and Chief Lovello indicated that it may but that had not yet been quantified.

Chief Lovello described RTM agenda item #10-2, gift from the Darien Technology Foundation in the amount of \$20,000 for accident investigation software and equipment. This technology plots and recreates crime/accident scenes years after their occurrence using GPS and laser technology.

Chief Lovello described RTM agenda item #10-3, request to join in a non-emergency interagency agreement with Stamford and New Canaan. He indicated that State statutes require such written agreements if towns want to cooperate in any joint non-emergency activities. Local police departments will have jurisdiction in their towns but this agreement would allow them to share resources. When asked why only two towns were being included in this agreement, Chief Lovello stated that this was new to us and he thought it best to start small, with the idea that such agreements could be made with other neighboring towns. There are no budget items to cover any costs associated with joint

investigations or activities but Chief Lovello felt that any costs would be minimal. Darien would be under no obligation to provide services. After a brief discussion with regard to status of the building of the new police station, Chief Lovello left the meeting.

A vote was called for items #10-1 and #10-2. The vote was unanimously in favor of both items. A vote on item #10-3 was delayed until the next meeting when several members expressed interest in obtaining additional information from Chief Lovello regarding experiences of other towns which have these agreements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted on January 25, 2010,

Mary Guimond, Clerk