

**TOWN OF SOUTHTON**  
**SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

**Corrected Minutes**

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Southington Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

*Members present:* Garry Brumback, Fire Chief Harold Clark, John DeGioia, Dave Lapreay, Richard Lopatosky, Domenic Perone, Mark Sciota, Capt. Gregory Simone, Cindy Wall and Steven Wlodkowski. *Others:* John Kaufmann, CIRMA.

*Members absent:* Mark Beal, Police Chief Jack Daly, James Paul

**I. Roll Call:** Chairman Garry Brumback called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Quorum was confirmed. This being the Town Manager's first meeting, he turned the meeting over to the Vice Chairman, Richard Lopatosky.

**II. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Chief Clark made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2011 meeting; seconded by Mark Sciota. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Old Business:** None

**IV. Review of Accidents and Corrective Action:**

Injury reports numbered #11-01 through #11-20 were reviewed.

#11-01: Capt. Simone said a police officer has problems with sciatic nerve. Sitting in cruiser with gun belt exacerbates the problem. No lost time from work. He is seeing his own doctor. Some discussion followed regarding ergonomics, adjusting the seat so that your back is up against the lumbar portion of the seat. John Kaufmann said he could look at it and give some suggestions. Cindy Wall added that a lumbar support pillow works for her.

#11-02: (Corrected) Chief Clark reported a fire fighter was struck behind his ear when the deck gun retracted while performing apparatus check on an engine. The firefighter needed to be seen at the Emergency Room and there was lost time. We now have a new order that firefighters must wear helmets when up in the truck.

#11-03 & #11-06: Police – same person, same injury. Sprained groin when exiting vehicle. Did lose time. Officer returned to work but then had same problem because of the gun belt. He was just cleared to return to work today. Has been out since January 15.

John Kaufmann said the town is not alone in these types of instances. Many times it is how they get out of the vehicle; it is a training and awareness issue, a common situation. He said strains and sprains is a major issue in workers' comp. We can talk about training or individual issues. A training session at different times could be scheduled so that employees and supervisors could attend at convenient times.

- #11-04: Richard Lopatosky reported that an engineering employee tripped in the office. There was no lost time. The employee was told to be careful where he walks. It was noted that the Engineering Department is so crowded that it is unsafe. Hopefully, when the department moves to North Center School, the safety issue will be taken care of.
- #11-05, #11-09 & #11-12: Three incidents - Fire fighters slipped on black ice in headquarters parking lot. Chief Clark explained the problem area. They try to keep the area clean by pre-treating with salt as best they can. It is a large area of the parking lot.
- #11-07: Steve Wlodkowski said the employee was jolted during snow storm operations. Sometimes you hit a spot and the loader jerks. There was no lost time for this shoulder sprain.
- #11-08: Richard Lopatosky reported that a town hall employee slipped on ice in the employee parking lot, hurting lower leg. No loss of time.
- #11-10: Police also had a slip and fall in the parking lot due to black ice. The area had not been sanded because cars were parked there when the sander came through. Officer lost two days of work due to hurting his back.
- #11-11: Town Hall employee slipped and fell on ice on her way into work. It was early morning, so it might be a timing issue as the Parks Department does clear and sand the walkways into Town Hall prior to employees coming to work. In response to a question, Mark Sciota clarified that even though it is before the employee's actual start time, if they are coming into the Town Hall to work, it would be considered workers comp.
- #11-13: Capt. Simone reported that an officer was injured while doing a motor vehicle stop. A vehicle passing the officer caught the back of his duty belt in the rear view mirror. The officer was out 30 days. It could have been a lot worse. Mark Sciota is in conversation with Ralph Archer at CIRMA regarding subrogation of the claim.
- #11-14: Police officer doing a private duty job directing traffic turned and felt a pop in his knee. The officer is seeking his own medical attention. No additional information since March 25. No lost time.
- #11-15: John DeGioia reported that an employee slipped on ice at the plant, hurting his back. No lost time from work except for some doctor appointments to take care of it.
- #11-16: Police officer responding to a burglary complaint bumped his head on a low door frame while checking the basement. No lost time.
- #11-17 & #11-18: Same incident. Officers were arresting a male suspect and received injuries while trying to restrain him. Neither officer lost any time.
- #11-19: Police officers were making an arrest and the suspect broke loose. Officer tripped and fell while in full pursuit, injuring his left arm and knee.

#11-20: Steve Wlodkowski said the mechanic was standing on truck steps while working in the cab and pulled his calf muscle. He has been out a week and a half and is now going to physical therapy. Reval is scheduled for Friday. Steve said he could not accommodate light duty for him because he has to be on crutches.

**V. New Business**

Garry Brumback said that safety is very important and believes that every department should look for issues and trends so that they can be reviewed for solutions. We all need to continue to make people aware of being safe. Reinforcing safety is a fundamental job of supervisors at any level, particularly people who work with heavy equipment, that they have the right gear, etc. Garry would like to know if there is something resource wise that he perhaps can help with.

If you see something that is a training issue, such as the cruiser seats and duty belts, Garry will do his best to get the training we need.

Chief Clark stated that John Kaufmann did come out and did a program on risk analysis. He is now working on another session on Workplace Violence and Harassment in the Workplace. He needs 12 to 15 people to attend. It will be in the near future. Let him know if you have anyone interested in attending.

John Kaufmann said if anyone has a subject you are interested in to let him know before the next meeting and he can put something together for the meeting.

**VI. Miscellaneous:** None

**VII. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mark Sciota, seconded by John DeGioia to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli  
Recording Secretary