

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
SAFETY COMMITTEE
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Minutes

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Southington Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

Members present: John Weichsel, Mark Beal, Fire Chief Harold Clark, John DeGioia, Dave Lapreay, Richard Lopatosky, Mark Sciota, Capt. Gregory Simone.

Members absent: Police Chief Jack Daly, James Paul, Domenic Perone, Cindy Wall and Steven Wlodkowski.

I. Roll Call: Chairman John Weichsel called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.

II. Minutes of Last Meeting: Chief Clark made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting; seconded by Dave Lapreay. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Old Business: None

IV. Review of Accidents and Corrective Action:

There was no one in attendance from the Highway Department; therefore, the accidents held over from the previous meeting still needed a response. It was decided to ask Steve Wlodkowski to respond to the following reports: #10-41, 45, 46, 47, 50, 54, 55, and 61. The responses would be forwarded to the Safety Committee as soon as received rather than waiting until the next quarterly meeting.

Injury reports numbered #10-65 through #10-81.

#10-65: Police officer at a private residence on a medical call; lost footing on a flight of stairs causing pain to neck, back and hamstring. Hardwood floor was slippery. Officer was out 3 days.

#10-66: Police officer was hammering in a No Parking sign using a sledge hammer. Sprained wrist; no lost time. There was some discussion about the police doing that type of work. Capt. Simone said at times they have to; this occurred on 2nd shift.

#10-67: Fire fighter caught left hand in a folding ladder; received treatment. No extended loss. Mr. Weichsel said people should be alerted to be careful with moving things.

#10-68: Police officer out on comp due to a knee injury and surgery; there were complications which caused him undue stress which lead to serious G.I. symptoms (claim filed by his lawyer). Mark Sciota said that CIRMA will handle this case with the attorney.

#10-69: Police officer was putting a duty bag into the car and felt pain in his back. He continued his shift but the next day called out. After 3 days of rest he was back to work. The bag weighs about 20-25 lbs. Mark Sciota noted that CIRMA offers workshops on how to lift things. Capt. Simone said they have had in-service training but have not had one in the last couple of years. Mr. Weichsel said that training should be arranged through CIRMA – they could do it for a few towns if that works. He felt it was disappointing that a 25 lb. bag could cause that problem for an officer.

- #10-70: Fire Dept. volunteer injured while participating in a class at the Wolcott Training School. Twisted knee slightly going up stairs. No medical attention.
- #10-71: Police officer responding to a burglary. While making an arrest he was struck in rib area during scuffle. No time lost and no medical attention required.
- #10-72: Fire fighter was setting parking brake on vehicle and came in contact with some glass; cut finger. He was issued new extrication gloves and counseled on the advantages of wearing them.
- #10-73: Police officer injured while working a traffic accident. The operator was injured; officer was looking through purse to get a driver's license and encountered some glass from the windshield that entered the pursed during the accident. No time lost.
- #10-74: Engineering inspector hurt middle finger while loading tools in a truck. No lost time. He did go to the hospital to see if the finger was broken.
- #10-75: Police officer was making an arrest and was kicked with a high heel in the shin; bruised. Completed shift that day and had no lost time.
- #10-76: Fire fighter twisted left knee while placing trash in a dumpster. No time lost.
- #10-77: Volunteer Fire fighter closed his finger in the door of the truck when re-entering. He had the finger examined; no lost time.
- #10-78: Fire fighter's knee was struck with 5" hose while it was charging with water during a fire. The hose weighs a lot. No medical attention required.
- #10-79: Fire fighter was struck in left elbow with a coupling during a fire. He was off for the rest of the shift.
- #10-80: Calendar House bus driver fainted in parking lot; brought to hospital. Driver is fine and is back to work. Mr. Weichsel asked if there was any follow-up on this person. It would not be good if the driver fainted while driving a busload of senior citizens. Richard Lopatosky said he would check into it with the Executive Director of the Calendar House.
- #10-81: Police officer sustained blood to both hands during an arrest of a suspect that is a known IV drug user. Have not heard anything back from the hospital. Chief Clark asked if the police get base lines or did it depend on circumstances. Capt. Simone said it depends on the circumstances, not as a general rule.

V. New Business

Chief Clark announced that CIRMA would be conducting a workshop tomorrow (January 20) on Accident Investigation and Risk Management from 8:00 a.m. to noon if anyone wished to attend.

VI. Miscellaneous: None

VII. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary