

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
SAFETY COMMITTEE
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Minutes

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Southington Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

Members present: Garry Brumback, Mark Beal, Fire Chief Harold Clark, John DeGioia, Richard Lopatosky, James Paul, Edward S. Pocock III (for Capt. Simone), Mark Sciota, Cindy Wall.

Others: John Kaufmann, CIRMA.

Members absent: Police Chief Jack Daly, Domenic Perone, Capt. Gregory Simone and Steven Wlodkowski.

I. Roll Call: Chairman Garry Brumback called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.

II. Minutes of Last Meeting: Mark Sciota made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting; seconded by Chief Clark. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Old Business: None

IV. Review of Accidents and Corrective Action:

Injury reports numbered #11-36 through #11-52 were reviewed.

- #11-36: Lt. Pocock said that the injury was related to an emergency scene. The officer was cut from a broken window. The person was not complying with officers. He said no matter how many protective devices you put on, you can still get cuts.
- #11-37: Richard Lopatosky reported that a Finance Dept. employee tripped in a sink hole in the parking lot and scraped her knee. The sink hole has been repaired.
- #11-38: Lt. Pocock reported that this injury occurred during a dog tracking incident at night. The officer tripped and fell in the woods. John Kaufmann said that the environment dictates in a case like this; it depends on circumstances and visibility. Not much to do to avoid such an incident.
- #11-39: Lt. Pocock stated that the officer had to break a vehicle window to get to a patient and cut two fingers in the process. Garry Brumback again brought up the subject of wearing gloves and asked that it be reinforced to wear the issued equipment (such as gloves) to reduce this type of injury.
- #11-40: No one from Highway was in attendance; this report will be held to the next meeting.
- #11-41: Richard Lopatosky reported that a Calendar House bus driver sprained her right shoulder while securing a wheelchair patient on the bus. She returned to work after a

couple of days off. Mark Sciota asked if we had done any training of bus drivers; it might be time for a refresher.

- #11-42: Richard Lopatosky said this was another Finance Dept. employee who tripped on uneven pavement in the town parking lot shortly after the other person fell. The public works department filled in the holes.
- #11-43: Chief Clark reported that a fire fighter was in a house that had been burning for a while and found a dog hiding under a bed. The dog bit the fire fighter as he rescued him.
- #11-44: Lt. Pocock stated that an officer suffered some smoke inhalation while attempting to evacuate a person from a trailer fire. The person did not want to leave his home. The officer was checked out and cleared to continue his police duties.
- #11-45: Lt. Pocock reported that this incident was a bee sting. The officer was not allergic but had a reaction. After using Benadryl, the officer was able to return to work.
- #11-46 & 11-47: These were Parks and Highway incidents and will be held over to the next meeting.
- #11-48: Chief Clark reported that a fire fighter received a glass cut through his glove while removing children from a car involved in an accident. No stitches were needed. Discussion followed on the use of latex versus leather gloves. Latex is always used when treating a patient. Leather gloves would have to be replaced and the cost would be very high. Good quality latex gloves are used for emergencies; cheaper quality gloves are used for such things as cleaning trucks, etc.
- #11-49: John DeGioia reported that this is a “regular” back injury for this employee (19th). Apparently he twisted the wrong way, spraining his lower back. In response to a question, there were no witnesses to the incident.
- #11-50: Volunteer fire fighter suffered shortness of breath during fire training. Chief Clark stated that fire fighters have bi-annual physicals. This volunteer did not have his. He is now on administrative leave until he gets his bi-annual physical.
- #11-51: This incident occurred during live fire training. The fire fighter’s mask was dislodged and he got some smoke inhalation. All medical reports were sent to our doctor and he was cleared. The fire fighter is back on line. Chief Clark noted that training is conducted with all safety standards. We have safety officers and an ambulance standing by; it is as safe as you can have a live burn. We are taking all the necessary precautions and actually go above and beyond – ambulances are not required to be on standby.
- #11-52: John DeGioia said this is the same person from #49. He had been out for two weeks and had instability in his back. He only lost time for doctor visits.

V. New Business

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2012. The proposed quarterly schedule was in the packet. Mark Sciota made a motion, seconded by Chief Clark, to authorize the Chairman to file the schedule with the Town Clerk's office. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Miscellaneous:

Discussion followed regarding training sessions that could be made available for a variety of things. John Kaufmann said that we could join other towns or if we have enough people we could have our own. Mark Sciota said he believed that combining our public works departments would be enough to have our own sessions, plus other departments could join in, such as the Calendar House for lifting, etc. Chief Clark said he would like to host a Strains and Sprains session and invited whoever else would like to come. It was suggested that he contact Capt. Simone to coordinate with the police.

Mr. Kaufmann said that even though CIRMA does body mechanics training, other things also need to be reviewed, such as the job, can something be eliminated or reduced such as using a hand truck for lifting so that everything is not done manually. Need to look at the problem globally.

VII. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary

Attachment: 2012 Meeting Schedule

Next meeting: January 11, 2012

TOWN OF SOUTHTON

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Approved 2012 Meeting Schedule

Quarterly on 2nd Wednesday

(All Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

January 11, 2012

April 11

July 11

October 10