

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
SAFETY COMMITTEE
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Minutes

The quarterly meeting of the Town of Southington Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Southington, Connecticut.

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

- *Members present:* John Weichsel, Mark Beal, Fire Chief Harold Clark, John DeGioia, Dave Lapreay, Richard Lopatosky, James Paul, Mark Sciota and Steven Wlodkowski.
- *Members absent:* Police Chief Jack Daly, Domenic Perone and Capt. Gregory Simone.

II. Minutes of Last Meeting: Richard Lopatosky made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting; seconded by Chief Clark. Carried unanimously.

III. Old Business: None.

IV. Review of Accidents and Corrective Action: Injury reports numbered 55 through 68 were reviewed.

#55, 56 & 57 were all from the same incident. Three police officers were first on the scene of a fire. A woman refused to leave the house without her pet rabbit. Officers removed her from the home and went back to retrieve the rabbit, suffering smoke inhalation in so doing. Chief Clark said this was discussed at the time of the incident. It was not good judgment to go back into a burning house without protective equipment, especially for an animal. He will talk to Chief Daly about it at the request of the Town Manager.

#58 – An officer was working private duty. Injured while moving a barricade. It was an unusual circumstance; not much to be done. As far as the problem being caused by the contractor's equipment, Mark Sciota said that CIRMA has the right to subrogation if they desire.

#59 – Fire on I-84. State Police wanted the trunk opened. Fireman was holding a spotlight and his hand was struck with the butt of an axe. No lost time. Need to be careful where your hands are in a situation like this.

#60 – Police officer was stung by a bee and had an allergic reaction. The officer carries his own epi pen to protect himself.

#61 – Dave Lapreay said the crew was getting rid of debris. Employee attempted to move equipment on top of the truck prior to dumping and fell off the truck injuring his groin and back. Nothing major.

Mark Sciota said that CIRMA is having sessions on mounting and dismounting vehicles which would probably be good for Highway, Sewer and Parks employees to attend. This is a big issue. Mark told CIRMA that it would be difficult to have an entire department attend a session in another location and was told that the session could be held on-site possibly at the Highway Department. Chief Clark said he would also be interested in having Fire Department employees attend, and it could be held at the fire station. Mr. Weichsel thought

it would be important to have people attend since it is winter and there are slippery conditions. Mark Sciota will make arrangements to have an on-site session.

#62 – A police officer was injured while breaking down a door. This sometimes happens. There was no time lost.

#63 – Dave Lapreay said the employee stated a piece of equipment and the cord slipped back, tweaking his finger. He was out a day.

#64 – Mr. Weichsel said this was the first time he had heard of a hearing loss from working over the years, especially the police department. He believed it is more than this committee can get involved in. CIRMA is very interested in this case. We will let CIRMA lead the way on this one.

#65 – AMR was called to assist a detective who apparently suffered a reoccurrence of an old injury. Mr. Weichsel questioned whether the employee would be able to work in the normal sense since the report indicated serious pain. Mark Beal said the officer has had back pain for a long time. Something happened to trigger the pain again. Mr. Weichsel asked him to check with the Chief or Captain for more information; is this unusual or will it be occurring every month? We would need to consider that.

#66 – Chief Clark said that a fire captain was cut on a sharp edge of an ice rescue sled during a training exercise. Corrective action has already been taken. It was minor.

#67 – Chief Clark said the victim got his hand stuck in a snowblower. Needed a hydraulic pump to extricate the hand. While carrying the equipment (about 70 lbs.) the fire fighter strained his back. No lost time; however, for equipment that heavy a second person should have helped.

#68 – A volunteer fire fighter responded to a call and slipped on black ice when exiting his vehicle, bumping his head on the running board of his own truck. He was transferred to Bradley Memorial Hospital, treated and released. No lost time. Mr. Weichsel suggested inviting the volunteers to attend the CIRMA workshop. Chief Clark will invite them but if too many respond it would have to be held at a different location.

V. New Business:

- A. Appointment of New Member. Jim Gura has retired. Cindy Wall of the Library is the new president of that union. She will be asked to serve as Jim's replacement or appoint a representative. Richard Egidio has also retired but his opening was put on hold. Dave Lapreay is already on the committee and is Acting Superintendent right now.

VI. Miscellaneous:

Steve Wlodkowski said that he has a couple of people in his department who have been diagnosed with tinnitus. He asked if they should submit a claim for hearing loss. Mr. Weichsel said that in the Highway Department, use of the Vac-alls and other loud equipment may cause hearing problems. If it happened at work, it should be reported.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Wlodkowski to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John DeGioia. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Acting Secretary