



Board of Aldermen Shelton, Connecticut

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4, 2004 - 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 104
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT**

◆ **CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Alderman Papa called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Alderman Papa
Alderman Finn
Alderman Lanzi
Alderman Minotti**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

**Chief Voccola, Police Department
Deputy Chief Hurliman
Chief Millo, Fire Department
Noreen McGorty, EMS Chairman**

◆ **PUBLIC PORTION**

There were no comments from the public

◆ **CORRESPONDENCE**

Four letters were read into the record and are attached at the end of the minutes.

Chief Voccola stated he brings to the committee the activity of the Police Dept. Speeding is the main complaint. Deputy Chief Hurliman states the fines go to the State but fire alarm, city ordinances violations go to the City.

The Chief also comments on the High Street letter. He has sent this to the residents and now to the committee.

Chief Voccola states in his letter to Aquarion Water Co. he asks about a snow fence across Trap Falls Rd. They have had to call crews out at night because it causes a serious road condition. Alderman Minotti states it was being done today.

The Chief comments on the letter to DOT. He received a call stating they would not be putting a temporary snow fence along Rte.108/Soundview Ave. He asked that the DOT submit their answer in writing. He will then put them on notice that this is a dangerous situation and someone will be seriously injured.

Alderman Papa asks who is responsible – Brownson Country Club. **The clerk will sent a letter to Corporation Counsel finding out who's responsibility it is. If it is the Country Club a letter should go to them.**

◆ **AGENDA ITEMS**

ALDERMAN PAPA MOVED TO ADD TO THE AGENDA AS ITEM #2.3 STREET LIGHT REQUEST AT STONEWALL LANE AND SAW MILL CITY RD. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO ADD TO THE AGENDA A LEFT TURN LANE OFF OF HUNTINGTON ST. TO BLUEBERRY LANE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 4, 2004

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL BOARD TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2004. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 WRIGHT STREET TRAFFIC

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO FORWARD LETTER FROM DARLENE SCACIA TO CHIEF VOCCOLA FOR REVIEW FOR REQUESTED TRAFFIC LIGHT.

There is a discussion about teenagers on that street and speeding.

The Chief has already replied on this street as follows:

“Although there is a very light traffic on Wright Street, there are speeding cars on Wright St. This will be addressed by the use of radar and an increased Police presence in the neighborhood.

The Officers from the Traffic Division will personally contact the residents of Wright Street in an effort to slow traffic.

I have instructed the Crime Prevention Officers to contact Darlene in an effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch meeting in this neighborhood.

The Traffic Division has completed the study regarding the traffic light installation, and I have sent the enclosed letter to the State Department of Transportation requesting this installation.

I will apprise your committee of the State's response on this matter.”

2.2 STREETLIGHT REQUEST – WEST ST. & LAKE AVE.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO FORWARD A COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR WEST ST. & LAKE AVE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Discussion that there is a pole at that location but there is no light. It came up before about the pine tree blocking the light. This is the dead end of Lake Ave.

2.3 STREET LIGHT REQUEST ON STONEWALL LANE AND SAW MILL CITY ROAD.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE A REQUEST FROM JOE KNAPIK FOR INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT AT STONEWALL LANE AND SAWMILL CITY ROAD. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2.4 LEFT TURN LANE AT HUNTINGTON STREET AT BLUEBERRY LANE

The Chief's letter states:

"In regard to installing left-turn lanes on Huntington Street, I recommend that your committee contact the City Engineer and ask him to check into the feasibility of widening or reconfiguring the area to support a dedicated left-turn lane for northbound traffic coming into Huntington Center.

There have been four reported accidents at the intersection, three of which were rear-end collisions involving northbound vehicles following too closely to vehicles waiting to make the left-hand turn onto Blueberry.

If you have any questions or if additional information is needed, please contact me."

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO SEND LETTER TO CITY ENGINEER AND ALSO TO THE STREET COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POSSIBILITY OF WIDENING OR RECONFIGURING THE AREA FOR A LEFT TURN LANE NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC FROM HUNTINGTON CENTER TO BLUEBERRY LANE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 FIRE & BURGLAR ALARM ORDINANCE

Alderman Papa refers to the Draft of the Ordinance that Chief Voccola, Chief Millo and the Fire Marshal have worked on. He has gone over the draft a few times and he feels they have changed it a little.

The Chief states they spent a lot of time with their staff's on this ordinance. He is presenting this ordinance to replace the old ordinance. Alderman Finn states we

should forward the draft to the City's Corporation Counsel for review and then to Full Board for recommendation to the March 24 Public Hearing on Ordinances.

Alderman Papa questions Sec. 9-102 – 1st paragraph – “violation of the above provision of this section **on two occasions within the annual time period** as described above as between January 1 through December 31 in any calendar year...” Alderman Papa states first violation is a warning, second one is a fine. Chief Voccola confirms.

Also (b) – “.of Shelton shall register, **with the Shelton Police Department...**” He states this is different from the original ordinance which states City of Shelton.

The Chief states you must obtain a permit and then register with the City. Alderman Papa states can a do-it-yourselfer install an alarm. Chief Voccola states they can but they still must get a permit.

On (g) it states “a written warning for the violation of this article and if there is a third false alarm within the same twelve month period, the chief of police may thereafter assess a penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each false alarm which occurs during the remainder of the 12 month time period”.

The Chief states they took the 6 month time period away because it was a bookkeeping nightmare. You get a warning the first time and the second time a ticket. Also if you blame the alarm company and if there are continuous false alarms the property owner, the alarm company and the police will have a meeting. **The alarm company could be subject to the penalties as described in this ordinance**

Alderman Papa also discusses the “Do Not Respond”.

Alderman Finn reports from the minutes of the Officer's Council meeting 50% of calls are false.

Deputy Chief states it didn't change from the previous ordinance. All that changed was the time period. In the previous ordinance, you would get the ticket on the third call. It is the same here. In the event there are two warnings the fine is on the third.

Alderman Papa questions whether the fine is on the third warning or the second?

The first two calls are warnings the third call is a fine.

It is discussed whether the wording should be two warnings or two occasions. The third false alarm will be a fine .

Alderman Lanzi asks about smoke alarms in houses. Chief Millo states on smoke alarms when the fire department responds if the alarm was set off because of smoke,(example pot of water sets off smoke alarm) that means the alarm did what it was suppose to do.

It is not a false alarm.

Chief Voccola states on page four (h) **"In the event of false alarms from any particular residence, business, firm or corporation within the designated annual time period, the Chief of Police may summon the designated permittee together with the permittee's alarm company responsible representative to a meeting with the Chief of Police and/or Fire Marshall in order to identify and correct the source of the false alarms. Alarm companies may be subject to the penalties as described in this ordinance"**

This is very new and important. If they get no cooperation they may not issue permits to these companies.

This is all being done to cut down on false alarms. The Chief states the Police are out there anyhow. The Fire Company has to be brought out. These fines will tighten up the logistics.

Alderman Finn mentioned new forms for Fire Department. Chief Millo states they will be using the radio calls – good intent – not habitual.

Deputy Chief states at the staff meeting they talked about paying on line, forms on line. WE do not consider this a profit making venture.

Chief Voccola states the collection has been great since the Finance Dept. has taken this function over.

Alderman Papa thanks everyone for their help.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO SEND THE DRAFT TO CORPORATION COUNSEL FOR REVIEW AND ALSO COMMENTS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING. ALSO SEND TO THE FULL BOARD TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH MEETING AND THEN FORWARD TO PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES FOR MARCH 25. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA AND ACT ON ITEM C. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR.

REPORTS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

A. FIRE SERVICES

Chief Millo states they have increased their training levels. The apparatus that has been purchased – the four new trucks – are expected possibility the end of April. The date of delivery would be about May and in service possibly by July. They will be retire five trucks replace with four new trucks.

The new truck for Pine Park was purchased from CRRA and it came in today. They have winterized the reserve engine and parked it at Station 4. They are installing radios in it – it is a pickup type vehicle – and it should be in service soon.

They had a bad structure fire on Cayer Circle. The men and women of the fire companies shined and they saved the main portion of the house and had 0 injuries.

Alderman Finn asks what trucks will be next.

Chief Millo states Ladder 1 is coming to the end of its rope. Maybe a new rescue or the old Ladder One – 77 Maxim. It is close to tolerance. It is a good ladder truck and it has a 500 lb. Tip load. The height has been reduced from 100' to 85'.

B. EMS COMMISSION

Noreen McGorty states the building is coming along great – EMS building – painting, new tiles. The class at Shelton High School for CPR/EMT training has started.

The first response program (Public Act 151) the EMS Commission was charged with the challenge to look at a first responder program for the City. They received two proposals. One from ECHO HOSE and one from Police Department. The commission has voted to go forward with the ECHO HOSE proposal. They will be talking with the Mayor and then go to the full board. They are having some conversations and Alderman Anglace wants to see more analysis on the data and on where the bulk of calls are. They have high volume – about 2,500 a day. They are going to take the data they have and provide a little more analytics.

Alderman Papa states you will be bringing it to the full board so they can look at it. There are state requirements.

Alderman Finn asks about new frequency at ECHO.

Ms. McGorty states Chief Voccola has been kind enough to share the data from the study done at the Police Department. They will start to have some communication with the Mayor, Fire Department and Police Department.

Alderman Finn questions the trouble with tower on Kings Highway. Ms. McGorty states they are talking about moving the tower and that will be a quicker Band-Aid.

Alderman Minotti asks how they communicate.

Ms. McGorty states they function with portables – if you are in the building you can not talk to someone outside. There is great reception from the Ambulance and from the Building.

Alderman Finn states that we have a repeater system. They are looking to enhance the present repeater system. Ms. McGorty states maybe to add additional repeaters.

Alderman Finn states it would be nice to have all three emergency departments communicate with each other.

Alderman Finn asks about contacting Homeland Security on improving services amongst EMS services.

Alderman Papa asks are there any grants available.

Alderman Minotti asks about National Emergency.

Ms. McGorty states they do have radios that were issued to EMS, Police and Fire for the County. It is used only for those times. They are tested regularly. It is only for National Emergency for use in Fairfield County only.

Everyone has a nextel and we have each other's numbers also. But there are problems with that system also.

❖ **ADJOURNMENT**

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:55 P.M. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Weber, Clerk
Public Health & Safety Committee