

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall Conference Room
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Minutes

Present: First Selectman William W. Fritz, Jr.; Selectmen, Dolly Mezzetti, Thomas Vicino, and Carol Walter.

Absent: Raymond Apel

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the United States flag.

VISITORS

Dick Dondero thanked Public Works for doing an excellent job cleaning up the town from Hurricane Irene. There was a discussion on the septic systems along the shore that got damaged due to the storm.

Hal Dolan inquired about last week's Selectman meeting when the board approved to send to the Board of Finance a request to restore the \$100,000 that was cut from the library budget. The library never had the opportunity to speak and answer questions. The information that was presented to the Board of Selectmen last week was never given to the Board of Finance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 31, 2011

Mezzetti made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2011. Vicino seconded the motion for discussion. Walter asked for the minutes to be amended. On page 1, third sentence should say, "*Ken McDonnell said he thinks the decision was made on misinformation.*" On page 3 regarding the Dog Park, it should say "*Fritz said I hope this is not political*". On page 3, eighth paragraph should say, "*Walter said she felt it was wrong that she wasn't able to attend last Friday's Emergency Management meeting. Fritz apologized if he embarrassed her.*" Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino to approve the minutes of August 31, 2011 as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

None

HURRICANE IRENE UPDATE

Leading up to the storm a meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center to discuss how we would handle the storm. The first meeting was held on Friday, August 26, 2011.

- Three strike force locations. Each location equipped with personnel and machinery.
- 48 hours prior a voluntary evacuation was sent out.
- Fire Department went door to door on Cedar Island

Saturday, August 27, 2011 8:00 AM meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center.

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- Discussed the need for a shelter. The Town Hall would be the designated shelter. Two school busses were parked in the Town Hall parking lot to transport people from the shelter to the Morgan School incase of flooding.

Saturday, August 27, 2011 5:00 PM meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center.

- The shelter at the Town Hall would open at 10:00 PM.
- All crews were called in at 11:30 PM.

The storm started at around 11:30 PM on Saturday, August 27th. 5:30 AM Fritz called Connecticut Light & Power to shut down all power in town because of all the down power lines. Guys went home to rest then came back to start clearing roads.

- A pay loader was sent to Shore Road to push the sand back from the streets.
- The Police Department patrolled the area for vandalism.
- Monday morning the Building Official and Director of Health walked the beaches and assessed the damage.
- CL&P assigned a crew to work with Public Works. At the beginning of the storm 50 roads were impassable. CL&P was not as well prepared as the town. CL&P crews from all over the state were here on Thursday to help reinstate power. Priority roads were RT 1, Nod Road and around the schools. Killingworth Turnpike had power on Wednesday so the Morgan School opened for hot showers.
- The town hall held a pasta dinner Wednesday night and served approximately 300 people.
- Power on Main Street was restored on Thursday morning.
- Information was hard to get out to residents because most residents had no home phone or internet access. Cell phone subscribers with AT&T lost service.
- Barbecue was held at the Morgan School on Friday night. The food was provided from Shoprite. The girl's high school soccer team and the boy's high school football team helped with the event.
- The fire department picked up two pallets of MRE's and bottle water for residents.
- The town hall was open extended hours as a charging station. The library extended their hours so residents could come and charge their cell phones, laptops and have internet access.
- CL&P said if the town hadn't cleared the roads they wouldn't have been able to restore power as soon as they did.
- Everyone agreed the new communication system worked great even during the worst part of the storm.

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Fritz asked if anyone has any suggestion to email him and he will take them to the wrap up meeting.

A FEMA representative will be at the town hall on Thursday, September 8th from 3pm – 7pm. FEMA may cover what ever your homeowners insurance doesn't cover. You still need to go to your homeowners insurance first. You must register with FEMA.

At this point everyone in town has power. 100 utility poles in town had to be replaced.

Walter asked how many generators the town had and where they were located. Neff said he was unsure on the exact amount. Generators were located at IRRC, Fire Department, Police Department, North Station, Public Works, Morgan School and Eliot School. Comcast was down all week so the town hall had no internet access. Public Works, Youth & Family and Social Services had no phone service and internet access. The town docks at Cedar Island were damaged from the storm.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Vicino said the Artificial Turf meeting was canceled for this week. The Economic Development Commission is meeting tonight at 7:00 PM.

Walter asked when a contract is signed will the town enforce penalties if the work is not completed by a certain date. The town beach building was expected to be completed by July 29th. Fritz said it is almost impossible to enforce. A lot has to do with weather. There was a discussion on what the responsibilities are for a clerk of the works. Fritz said are responsible for quality control.

The entire board thanked Public Works, Fire Department and the Police Department for doing a great job during and after the storm. Mezzetti thanked Public Works for taking in garbage the weekend after the storm at no charge.

Mezzetti said this Saturday there will be a bicycle race through town to benefit the Yale New Haven Smilow Cancer Center.

There was a discussion on the Fireman's Convention and parade that will be held next weekend. They will no longer be using Shore Road for the parade.

ADJOURN

Mezzetti made a motion, seconded by Vicino, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino
Administrative Assistant

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