

January 9, 2013

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Glee McAnanly. Also present were members of the public.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) Discussion with Connecticut Light & Power Representatives


Mr. Haberek stated that the meeting would be a quasi internal assessment along with CL & P representatives so we can bring into the fold with some of their concerns. Mr. Haberek asked Police Chief Darren Stewart his thoughts on some of the things that worked out well from the last storms and some of things that may be improved on. Chief Stewart stated that no one died or was injured so that was a good thing but internally you can always learn from these events. He further stated that maybe we have to look at a more direct line going into the EOC. He also stated that in the course of the nine or ten days that this was going on there were 9 Everbridge messages that hit a total of 7,000 plus homes so 63,000 plus messages went out to the Town of Stonington. Mr. Haberek stated that he thinks it was helpful with the dispatchers that can man it 24/7. Captain Jerry Desmond stated that maybe we could use the web page as a medium. Captain Desmond also suggested purchasing some of those road signs where we can post our own messages. Chief Stewart stated that the CL & P gentleman in the EOC was wonderful to deal with. Vin Pacileo, Director of Administrative Services, stated that we're looking at to see about some satellite technology. Leanne Theodore from Human Services stated that they made sure that they reached out to all of the senior housing and mobile home parks. John Phetteplace, Solid Waste Manager, stated that the double tub grinder was being removed from the landfill and that he was looking into purchasing a generator for the gate house. Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works stated that with the tree damage there was 35-40 roads out with trees blocking them. He further stated that the town was assigned a crew that really worked at Public Works' direction and that it was hugely valuable to have the same crew. Mr. Haberek stated that once the crew is here it is fantastic. He further stated that our difficulty was the opening up of the roads. Fire Chief Ken Richards stated that there were no major incidents. He further stated that all of the departments worked well together. Dan Hagen, CL & P Operations Manager in Waterford stated they cover a territory from the Connecticut River east to Rhode Island and all the towns in that area and then north up to Lyme, Salem, Ledyard, Preston and North Stonington. They serve twelve towns in the district that he has. He further stated that since Irene, they have had aggressive tree trimming program going on. Mr. Hagen stated that trees are the biggest problem and that CL & P peaked out at 140 line trucks and 80 tree trucks. Mr. Haberek stated that his biggest concerns going forward that you have 20 tree crews and we got one. The thing that has been irritating him leading up to it that we constantly hear all of the time Stamford Bridgeport, Greenwich is going to get demolished. Mr. Haberek stated that he told the governor when he came here that we are part of Southeastern Connecticut and not Southwestern Rhode Island

and from New Haven east that there are towns. The amount of trees on our side of the state is probably three times the amount of trees in Hartford and Bridgeport. The first day we only had one tree crew and we had a number of roads down. Mrs. McAnanly stated that she agreed with Mr. Haberek with the one tree trimming truck. She further stated that it was hard to see National Grid in Rhode Island and their power being restored a lot faster than Connecticut. Mr. Haberek stated that the blocked roads were a big problem. He further stated that if you have a tree on Greenhaven Road that blocks the road it would take 4-5 minutes to go around and go the other way. Mr. Crouse stated that there was a communication problem between your office and our office. We were very frustrated in the first two days. He stated that CL & P should be up front and tell us where the crews are going. Mr. Hagen stated that he knows where all of the crews are all of the time. The Mystic substation feeds a big part of the town so you had a lot of crews working on those circuits visible in town. Mr. Haberek asked if that should be protected in any different way. Mr. Hagen stated that this year they are doing a major project in Stonington that going to build a new line between Mystic and Pawcatuck and put in an automatic tie to Shinuck so if we lose some circuits out of Shinuck it's automatically transferred over to Mystic. Mr. Ed Hart asked if someone could clarify Shinuck. Mr. Hagen stated that it is a substation just over the line in North Stonington that feeds a lot of Pawcatuck. Mr. Sternberg stated there are poles in town waiting to fall down and that two of them are in front of his house. Mr. Sternberg stated that they were marked for removal 3-4 years ago. Ms. Fran O'Neil asked if the light that CL & P took out across the street from her house on Lathrop Avenue could be put back. Mr. Hart asked how many poles we lost during the storm.

(4)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary