

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008
7:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT

AGENDA

◆ CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of Allegiance is recited by all in attendance. Alderman Papa called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Auditorium of Shelton City Hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: **Alderman John Papa, Chairman**
 Alderman John “Jack” Finn

ABSENT: **Alderman Jason Perillo (Excused)**

Also in attendance are Alderman Stan Kudej and Chief of Police Joel Hurliman

◆ PUBLIC PORTION

Chris Jones, 42 Crescent Street, Shelton wished to address the Commission. He would like to make some comments regarding the radio issue. He feels this puts a black eye on the City of Shelton to say the least. He did some research in looking into what the story was. *There was a story in the Huntington Herald – 6/5/2001 – There was a Police Study solution to Radio System. “It is very frustrating to hear the dispatcher center call an officer and the officer is not responding said Police Chief Robert Voccola. It is a frightening experience. We are very concerned about the officers. The article also states it is an expensive proposition. One estimate to install a*

state of the art radio system is more than \$500,000.00. "Mayor Mark A. Lauretti supports this 100% Voccola said." The city is seeking bids from an engineering consultant who would help the city determine the best system to install. Chief Voccola would like to rip out the radio room at the police station and replace it with the improvements he is seeking.

Another article indicated \$600,000.00 in grant money. He found a press release from Rosa DeLauro – 12/8/2003 – she presented a bill down in Washington DC in which the bill would also include \$500,000.00 for the Shelton PD to fund the PD radio system upgrade project. The upgrade entails the addition of transmitter sites, upgrade of one frequency to full License Power and a reprogramming and repositioning of existing radio equipment to the proper frequency.

Connecticut Post – 11/16/2005 - \$100,000.00 grant from Congressman Shays – in his bill – the bill includes \$100,000.00 for the Shelton PD to buy an upgraded communication system. A recent survey identified coverage problems with the department's current system including dead zones. Officers are completely out of radio contact with police headquarters and backup units. "This is a good start towards our continued effort to bring the technological needs of the PD to current times said Mayor Mark Lauretti. We are appreciated of his support.

Today I read the paper – New Haven Registrar – "we have been making some repairs to the radio system and more radio repairs are scheduled said Police Chief Joel Hurliman" Again, the radio system

is not where it is suppose to be and the city is doing everything it can to fix it. The city is doing everything it can to fix it. It is a huge concern of mine. The city has received two grants totaling \$600,000.00. A Full Board of Aldermen in February voted to waive the bid process and enter into contract with Oliver Associates to prepare, administer and manage the radio frequency changes for the local Fire and Police Departments. Communication issues have been a problem for awhile said Chief Hurliman. The situation became worse when in October 2007 the old custom built antennae in Derby was replaced with another one. There is an antenna that needs to be replaced. Alderman Jason Perillo, Public Health & Safety Board, states we have solved many of the problems we had at the EMS but it takes time for these things. It is important to have quality communication and I know Chief Hurliman is working towards that and that it is a high priority.

Mr. Jones states that after the Channel 8 reports the other night, and I find these going back to 2001 of this being an issue – I actually found Board of Aldermen Finance Committee minutes of March 25, 2004 that they approve a radio systems survey by Oliver Associates. Someone is dropping the ball here. Someone is going to get hurt. It is amazing that it went this long before an officer hasn't been injured. I just think this has just been past on. Who ever applied for the federal grants – why did they apply for \$600,000.00 if you are not going to use it? I understand the \$500,000.00 grant is up in November. Why is it not used?

If you need a new antenna in Derby – call and transfer money. He is here to voice his concern. His grandfather was a Shelton Police Officer and so was his Father and he also has other family members who are Police Officers. He is concerned.

- ◆ AGENDA ITEMS
- ◆ CORRESPONDENCE

There is a letter from Alderman Perillo concerning the Snow Removal Ordinance. There is no other correspondence. Alderman Perillo's letter is as follows:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. REGULAR MEETING MARCH 5, 2008

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2008. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

Alderman Papa states this is on for discussion. This used to be a \$15.00 fine for not removing snow. The state said it could go up to \$250.00. Alderman Papa thinks \$250.00 is quite high. He believes that people who own property that has a sidewalk is liable whether there is a fine or not. He would like to have discussion on the fine, the dollar amount. He asks Chief Hurliman how many fines or citations he has given for people who do not remove snow. He states there might be a few, not a high number. The Chief asks if they will clean the sidewalk, then they do it. Chief Hurliman states he feels it is a high fine also. Alderman Papa state the clerk (Theresa) received many snow ordinances from other towns.

Alderman Finn states he likes Derby's ordinance the best. It is well written, state statutes, time frame, etc. We had one gentleman at our meeting that lives at Ripton on Howe Avenue that could not get down to the corner drug stores. He needs to be concerned with these people. He had a problem himself over a snow bank on Howe Avenue. Alderman Papa states that was a retail business. Chief Hurliman states they have an after hours contact number.

Alderman Kudej states that his son complained that on Howe Avenue he has cleaned with the snow-blower and at night the trucks have pushed it back. During the day it freezes and when they come home from work it is frozen and becomes hard and you need a pick axe to clean it up. Alderman Papa states that an effort has been made. Chief Hurliman states that there have been some complaints.

Alderman Finn would like to rewrite the ordinance to resemble Derby's.

Alderman Papa states they want to amend the ordinance to change the dollar amount.

Alderman Finn asks that this be moved along to Corporation Counsel to redraft it and to look at Derby's ordinance.

Alderman Papa mentions the two tier fine recommended by Alderman Perillo.

2.2 STREETLIGHT REQUESTS

- 1. POLE AT CORNER HOWE AND BREWSTER AVENUE (NUMBERS ARE NOT ON POLE)**

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A STREETLIGHT ON THE POLE AT THE CORNER OF HOWE AND BREWSTER AVENUE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

- 2. POLE AT CORNER OF HOWE AND KNEEN (NUMBERS ARE NOT ON POLE)**

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR STREETLIGHT ON THE POLE AT THE CORNER OF HOWE AND KNEEN. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

- 3. POLE # 9401 –ON ACCESS ROAD/PARKING LOT OF NIKE SITE**
- 4. POLE #9402 – ON ACCESS ROAD/PARKING LOT OF NIKE SITE**

Alderman Finn suggests that Parks & Recreations call about security lights like outside City Hall.

Alderman Papa states he talked to Tim Kulish and that the light is out.

UI has been called about the light. This light is by the door to the daycare.

Chief Hurliman's letter states that they are priority three streetlights.

2.3 VANDALISM ON THE RIVERWALK – DISCUSSION

Alderman Kudej – 43 Plaskon Drive – he states that the elderly people walk to exercise. There is a rash of Graffiti down there. He tells of one person was down there walking and a boy buzzed by on bicycle and he had a spray can in back pocket. He spoke to boy and he ran off. The kids know when the foot patrol policeman is there.

He noticed when Gov. Rell came down, John Anglace, Al Sabetta and himself were standing on the sidewalk and a unleashed dog and the dog made a mess. There is a pooper-scooper law and dog ordinance. He doesn't know what to do. How about a camera installed.

Alderman Finn shows photos which are attached. He states that the Chief sent Mr. Panek and me a letter which made the paper. It was in the media and it stated that the Administration and you had a plan in effect to address vandalism at the Riverwalk. Also that a Graffiti clean ip machine was to be purchased. Alderman Finn states they cleaned up about 55 traffic signs in the White Hills area.

Chief Hurliman states that there is a foot patrol down there. He states not only foot patrol but also backup. If you see someone painting you need to prove he did it. There were quite a few results for a while. It did not stop it for long enough. The Graffiti has to be cleaned up before you can prove that he put it there and that it wasn't there before. If there is nothing there and you see Graffiti there and someone has a can of paint in his hand you can charge him with criminal mischief. If it is a first offense it could be no fine. Chief Hurliman states they can charge under City Ordinance but not if they are a juvenile.

Alderman Papa states when they ruin a ball field they make the parents responsible for the cleanup. Chief Hurliman states sometimes it is a single parent and they don't have the money to pay.

Chief Hurliman states they have a proposal for a camera system that would be set up in Derby because they have a better view of the Riverwalk. You can't see part of the Riverwalk from this side. The system is two cameras and it would be hooked to their system. The system is about \$13,000.00. This would include a license that they could tap into and recording for later. Derby would not be monitoring this.

Chief Hurliman states the 2nd part is to have an initiative for a longer duration. He states it happens when no one is around – during the day and when it is dark.

Alderman Papa asks about cameras at Dunkin Donuts.

Alderman Kudej states that these arrests should be publicized.

Alderman Papa states that a couple of months ago we talked about speeders. Do you get calls from the public and turn in license numbers. Chief Hurliman states they contact that person. Can we do the same with Graffiti? What should they do? They get calls from people about Graffiti. Mr. Panek was one of the people who got a call about seeing people performing the Graffiti. Alderman Finn thinks that Dunkin Donuts should be cleaned up by us also. Alderman Papa states that is private property and the Riverwalk should be cleaned up first.

Chief states if someone calls and says they see a person spraying Graffiti, they send someone out there immediately.

Alderman Papa mentions a reward for the arrest and conviction of vandalism. Alderman Finn states that is not allowed.

Alderman Finn would like this question sent to Corporation Counsel about a reward. He states they tried to do it before with the American Flag and were told no reward could be offered.

Chief Hurliman states the initiative will not be publicized. The arrests will be made public eventually after the fact.

Alderman Kudej states in Parks & Recreation they had a \$200.00 reward for the conviction of any vandalism.

Chief Hurliman states there are also other vandalisms. He will come back with the reports of some arrests and then they will come out with the information on the cameras.

Alderman Papa asks about finance of cameras. Chief Hurliman will come back with his proposals for the cameras. There are not Homeland Security Funds left. That is going to be awarded regionally now.

Alderman Kudej would like to see something done about the dogs defacing the Riverwalk. Alderman Papa also states that there is a pooper scooper law. Alderman Kudej states they are also being bitten by the dogs. Alderman Papa states that is a civil matter. Alderman Kudej states they should leave their dogs at home.

Alderman Finn states the parks say no dogs. Alderman Papa states there is a leash law.

Alderman Pap states there is no ordinance that the dogs can not be at the parks.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. STOP SIGN REQUEST – LONG HILL AVENUE & SOUNDCREST

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS AT THE CORNERS OF LONG HILL AVENUE AND SOUNDCREST ROAD. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

4. REPORTS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

A. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

No one from EMS was here to talk.

B. POLICE SERVICES

Chief Hurliman states he will speak on the radio systems briefly.

He states there have been allocations that the City did not do anything and he states that is not true. There have been some issues with the current system.

One issue is the antenna (In Derby) that allegedly something happened to it. They replaced it with an antenna that they had picked out which is scheduled to be installed as part of the rebanding process that we were ordered to undergo by the FCC.

During the rebanding process, which we thought we thought was going to help according to the transition administrator you are not suppose to be making any major changes to your system during that process. The

process is taking much longer than it was suppose to. We are going to be making some major changes to the system very shortly even though we are going through the rebanding process we have applied for a wavier to do that because currently there are some problems which are not related to just that antenna. That antenna has caused the bulk of the complaints from October, 2007 forward because the one that's up there now is not the equal of the one we had before. The vendor who we rely on for maintenance and making sure things are up to specification is the one who picked that antenna out. Alderman Papa asks what do we do with that antenna now. Chief Hurliman states they have already ordered a new antenna which will be equal or better to the one we have. Alderman Papa asked about the date of installation. We placed the order it is going to cost \$8,000.00.

Alderman Papa states they funded Oliver Associates to go out and get a different frequency in February.

Chief Hurliman states that step one for that is – there were some frequencies that were identified by Oliver Associates and the new radio vendor as being available locally. They said if we moved fairly quickly on that they thought at the time we would be awarded – they were in the 450 range.

We did move fairly quickly on them but the State Frequency Coordinator said they were no longer available already. Now they are going to apply for a waiver to try and get a frequency between 470 and 512.

Alderman Finn asked if you do a between 470 and 512 if that going to increase the coverage in the city. The proposal that Oliver Associates did indicated that if we acted quickly in 2007 we could have a 95% coverage of the city of Shelton. We currently have 65%. The range that you just mentioned would the coverage remain at 65% or will it be greater. Chief Hurliman states if we got that particular frequency – the Simulcast System – is not a system where there will be one transmitter and backup transmitter. This would be multiple sites broadcasting at once. The repeater System is what we have now.

Chief Hurliman states the Simulcast is better because all the sites will transmit at the same time. They are timed with GPS so they don't interfere with each other. It is like if you have two portables together close together they make a sound back and forth. That is the system they propose. Again whether we get this or not we still have to fix what we got.

Alderman Finn states the current system that we have was put in in 1988 and is the Repeater System. There have been some minor adjustments to it.

Alderman Finn states that the blogs on this story – Mark Holden states the Fire Department has found away around the dead areas in the City of Shelton by placing a truck there and go to a house fire with another truck. The Fire Department does not do that because when you have two trucks there the repeater system blocks each other out. Mr. Holden recommends that the Police Department when you have a dead area and have a patrol car you park a car so that car can communicate back to the parked car. Alderman Papa asks how he got involved. Chief Hurliman states some of his officers ask why they can't have in car repeaters like MTA and other agencies. Why we can't is because they don't function the same way. The MTA or DEP work by themselves or at the most one other person there so they can have in car repeaters because they are off by themselves. We could have an incident where there are 7 cars there and the one will cancel the other out.

Alderman Papa asks about the \$600,000.00 grant – is it good till November? Chief Hurliman states it is good past November and we can also get an extension. The grant is to upgrade. It is not used to repair. The problem that was slowing this down was the rebanding because we already had a problem where some of our portable radios were not able to be rebanded and it turns out that although they were perfectly fine on the other frequency they are not licensed on the lower 800 frequency so Nextel is not responsible for paying them.

Alderman Finn asks if you are looking at a frequency that something Derby will have. Shelton Highway & Bridges are on a frequency similar to another community. Ours is lower than the other community's. When the other community starts broadcasting it shuts Shelton off completely and there is no communication with Highway & Bridges trucks or headquarters until the other community finishes their transmission.

Chief Hurliman states they are only going to go on properly powered Public Safety Frequency. A regular commercial license and someone else is talking on it and it causes no...

Alderman Papa interjects once we have this frequency – the Police, Fire, EMS and the Board of Education should all be able to talk to one another. That is what we are shooting for.

Alderman Finn states I know we have to get the frequency first. Chief states they will start to upgrade while waiting for the problems to be fixed. The Police console didn't cause problems. It will be replaced. They got a used one donated because you can only use this once with the grant

funds. The console has to be compatible with the new system. They will upgrade the console also with the new system. Alderman Papa asked about a time frame. Chief states before the end of the year. We will know if they got the waiver or if they have to go to 700 MHz. Alderman Finn states we are going to increase from 65% to close to 95%. It will be engineered to hit 95%. Alderman Finn states that not only the PD had problems but the Fire Department has problems in structures. It will also correct that.

Chief Hurliman states 95% coverage is like something 95% fat free. It guarantees 5% fat – 5% no coverage. No system is 100%

Alderman Finn states there is a possibility that there will still be dead spots.

Alderman Papa states the Police Cars also correspond on computer to other cars. Chief Hurliman they can but sometimes they are also out of range if the radio is out of range. 95% should be our goal it is the Federal Standard.

The Police Department March Infraction Report is attached. Alderman Papa indicates the infractions – the Police Department is doing their job. He would like to see an infraction for graffiti on this report.

Alderman Finn asks about Aggressive Driver Grant. Chief Hurliman sent his people up to the State.

They will be having a Seat Belt Wave. He will publicize that in conjunction with the other Valley towns.

C. FIRE SERVICES

ADJOURNMENT

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Weber, Clerk

Public Health & Safety Committee March Infraction Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Fine</u>
3/1/2008	Rocky Rest Rd	Traveling too fast for conditions		\$103.00
3/1/2008	Sullivan Ave @ Bridgeport Ave	Restricted/Improper turn		\$103.00
3/1/2008	Huntington St @ Commerce Dr	Failure to obey stop sign		\$124.00
3/3/2008	Black Hill Rd	Improper Parking		\$75.00
3/3/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
2/28/2008	120 Meadow St	Oper of 16/17 YO		\$158.00
3/8/2008	Shelton Ave @ Malher Drive	Following too close		\$103.00
3/5/2008	Soundview @ Park Ave	Traveling too fast for conditions		\$103.00
3/5/2008	Church St	Failure to grant right of way		\$103.00
3/6/2008	Bridgeport Ave	Operating unreg		\$93.00
3/6/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/6/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/1/2008	Soundview @ Shelton Ave	Fail to give ROW		\$93.00
3/8/2008	Bridgeport Ave @ Nells Rock	Op w/o license		\$158.00
3/8/2008	Howe Ave @ Spring St	Fail to obey traffic signal		\$114.00
3/8/2008	River Rd @ Exit 14 S	Fail to obey traffic signal		\$114.00
3/9/2008	Howe Ave @ Kneen St	Fail to carry insurance		\$93.00
3/7/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/7/2008	Maltby St @ Gilbert St	Fail obey stop sign		\$124.00
3/10/2008	Howe Ave @ Indian Well Rd	Failure to drive right		\$103.00
3/9/2008	Coram Ave	Unreg MV, Improper number of lamps		\$168.00
3/10/2008	Bridgeport Ave	Traveling too fast for conditions	53/30	\$191.00
3/13/2008	Shelton Ave @ Soundview	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$124.00
3/13/2008	Bridgeport Ave @ Nells Rock	Fail to obey traffic signal, Fail to carry ins card		\$207.00
3/13/2008	Meadow St @ Ten Coat La	Traveling too fast for conditions	50/25	\$191.00
3/12/2008	Meadow St	Traveling too fast for conditions	51/25	\$281.00
3/12/2008	Meadow St	Traveling too fast for conditions	40/25	\$143.00
3/12/2008	Meadow St	Traveling too fast for conditions	47/25	\$188.00
3/13/2008	Meadow St @ Ten Coat La	Traveling too fast for conditions	46/25	\$182.00
3/13/2008	Meadow St @ Ten Coat La	Traveling too fast for conditions	50/25	\$191.00

3/13/2008	Bridgeport Ave	Fail to carry insurance, Fail to obey traffic signal		\$207.00
3/13/2008	Meadow St @ Ten Coat La	Traveling too fast for conditions	46/25	\$266.00
3/16/2008	465 Bridgeport Ave	Handicap Parking Violation		\$150.00
3/14/2008	Huntington St	Traveling too fast for conditions, Failure to renew	51/30	\$257.00
3/13/2008	Hillside Ave @ Tuxedo Ave	Improper Parking		\$75.00
3/13/2008	Hillside Ave @ Tuxedo Ave	Improper Parking		\$75.00
3/15/2008	Sullivan Ave @ Bridgeport Ave	Restricted/Improper turn, Failure to carry ins card		\$196.00
3/15/2008	Center St	Improper Parking		\$75.00
3/15/2008	Center St	Improper Parking		\$75.00
3/18/2008	465 Bridgeport Ave	Handicap Parking Violation		\$150.00
3/18/2008	Village Dr @ Tahmore Pl	Traveling too fast for conditions, Fail to drive right		\$206.00
3/18/2008	Walnut Tree Hill Rd @ Suren La	Failure to obey stop sign		\$114.00
3/19/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/19/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/20/2008	Mohegan Rd @ Moose Hill Rd	Failure to obey stop sign		\$124.00
3/21/2008	Booth Hill Rd @ Capital Dr	Violation of passenger restrictions by a 16 yr old		\$103.00
3/20/2008	Shelton Ave	No passing zone		\$103.00
3/20/2008	Meadow St @ Shelton Ave	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$114.00
3/22/2008	Howe Ave @ Bridge St	Traveling fast, red light, improper right turn		\$320.00
3/24/2008	Bridgeport Ave	No front plate, Misuse plates, no insurance, Operating unreg MV		
3/26/2008	River Rd @ Trolley Bridge	Operating w/o license, Speeding	56/35	\$360.00
3/26/2008	120 Meadow St	Smoking in Public Building		\$75.00
3/25/2008	Kneen @ Coram	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$114.00
3/25/2008	Howe Ave @ Kneen St	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$114.00
3/25/2008	Shelton Ave @ Meadow St	Operating unreg MV		\$93.00
3/27/2008	Shelton Ave @ Meadow St	Fail to obey traffic signal		\$124.00
3/27/2008	Center St @ Coram Ave	Possession of Alcoholic Liquor by minor		\$136.00
3/26/2008	Nells Rock Rd	Traveling too fast	34/25	\$103.00
3/28/2008	705 Bridgeport Ave	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$124.00
3/28/2008	Howe Ave @ White St	Failure to obey traffic signal		\$124.00
3/29/2008	Huntington St @ Commerce Dr	Disobeying Officer signal		\$103.00
3/28/2008	Longview Rd	Simple Trespass		\$92.00
3/28/2008	Bridge St	No parking		\$75.00

