

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2009 Room #314

WORKSHOP

The following minutes are a record of a Special Town Council Meeting Workshop held on Thursday, March 19, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Those present included Chairman Mike Brodinsky, Councilors Robert Parisi and Rosemary Rascati. Councilor John LeTourneau arrived at 7:20 P.M. Councilors Vincenzo DiNatale, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr. and Michael Spiteri were absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Public Utilities Director George Adair, Police Chief Douglas Dortenzio, Fire Chief Peter Struble and Peter Applegarth, representing CodeRED.

The Mayor began the meeting by stating that those in attendance were going to see a presentation concerning an emergency notification system. For example, the notice, by phone in this case, could advise residents to take certain action or to be aware of specific emergency conditions. The advantage of an automated system is that emergency notification would not have to be done by going door-to-door. The Mayor said that he had been looking at a variety of products but this one seemed superior.

Fire Chief Struble said that this system met the town's needs. It was a superior service because, among other things, it did not require the town to buy equipment.

Police Chief Dortenzio also said that he thought that CodeRED was the best option that he had seen. He pointed out that the company assumed the cost for all telephone circuits.

Pete Applegarth described the CodeRED Emergency Notification System program. He said that the service was ready 24/7 to phone thousands of people faster than competitors --- often within minutes. He passed out materials, which gave additional details of the CodeRED system. He said that his company had many governmental clients, including some nuclear reactor operators; and 10 years of emergency notification experience.

He listed Connecticut communities who have "signed up." There were many; they included: Cheshire, Branford, Norwalk, Watertown, Woodbury, Prospect, and Milford, and more. He said that his company had a 99% renewal rate.

He said that the CodeRED Emergency Notification could notify up to 60,000 people per hour. He gave examples of reasons for emergency notification. His brochures included these and other examples:

- Severe weather warnings;
- Search and rescue efforts that include missing persons & children;
- Evacuation routes;

Disaster warnings; terrorism threats; gas leaks; chemical spills;
Health department notices regarding water contamination or flu pandemics;
Public works forewarnings regarding street closings;
Utility outages; and
Crime prevention.

Mr. Applegarth demonstrated CodeRED special mapping capabilities on his laptop with Powerpoint. As an example, he said that the customer could use an Internet map to chose by street or neighborhood where the emergency telephone calls would go. From a remote location, the authorized person could record the emergency message to be sent.

He demonstrated how the system would work, moving through log in and other screens, and then, simultaneously, he called the cells phones of four in attendance who gave their cell phone numbers to help demonstrate the system.

The cost of CodeRED is based upon population, and Wallingford's cost would be \$15,000.00. He promised it would not be increased, ever. If the system was used to make an unforeseeably high number of calls and used an unforeseeably large number of minutes, the town could be subject to a surcharge. For budgeting purposes, Mr. Applegarth said that a contract could be tailored to interface with our fiscal years.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Mike Brodinsky, Chairman

Date

Barbara Kapi, Town Clerk

Date

Draft minutes were prepared by Mike Brodinsky on 3/21/09
