

Town Manager's Report Monday, June 6, 2011

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

FIRE

Unusual Emergency Responses: Last Wednesday's tornado obviously overwhelmed the resources of the affected towns. The State has a regional task force system in place to provide additional resources as needed in situations like this. There are ambulance, brush and structural task forces (Concord has a presence in all such plans). The ambulance task force consists of 5 ambulances and 1 Commander. The Ambulance task force of which Concord is part was activated at 1:30 AM last Thursday morning. Responding participants included ambulances from Concord, Stow, Maynard, Sudbury, ProEMS and Chief Cotreau as Task Force Commander. The task force arrived in Brimfield at 6:00 AM, and duty involved providing EMS response and standby for the impacted area, and to support search and rescue operations as required. Chief Cotreau reports they were busy for most of the day with standbys and several EMS responses and transports. All members performed well and no task force personnel were injured.



Brimfield Tornado Damage



Refueling at Task Force Staging Area

Our Chief will examine the lessons learned from this unique response, and include same in our own emergency preparedness efforts.

Notable Retirement

Capt Donny Prentiss is retiring after 38 years of service. He is a third generation Concord firefighter.

Other items: The Fire Department provided EMT coverage for the Memorial day cannon firings with no issues encountered.

LIBRARY

Book Sale: The Friends of the Library's annual book sale was held on Saturday. This year, the very successful event netted approximately \$20,000.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Willard School Solar PV System: A solar photovoltaic system installed on the roof of the Willard School in September, 2010, has generated 29,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, about one-half of what we expect it will ultimately generate in its first full year of operation. That is enough electricity to power 222 computers for 1 year. A video about how the system was installed on the Willard's roof may be viewed from Concord Light's webpage at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/success

Smart Grid Pilot Program: Concord Light is developing load management ideas using the Smart Grid infrastructure to reduce peak demand with minimal impact on residents, while reducing power and transmissions costs for the town. One idea has developed into the Controlled Central AC and Swimming Pool Pump Pilot program. This program is designed to help discover what residents' tolerance is with each strategy (especially control of air conditioning systems), what the possible load reduction can be per home, and if the load reduction makes this program worthwhile.

The pilot program has reached capacity with 100 volunteer customers now enrolled for this summer. The program is designed to control residential and commercial central air conditioning when a New England peak demand hour is anticipated. The control strategies being tested include central air conditioning with and without pre-cooling in the home or business, and cycling on/off air conditioners during these hours. Swimming pool pumps will be shut off for a three-hour period when a peak demand is anticipated.

Concord Light will provide participants with a new meter which provides load information in greater detail than the current meter and allow measurement of any reduction in the participants' demand for electricity – the overall goal for this pilot. Pilot participants with central air conditioning will also receive a new programmable thermostat. Concord Light will install a load management on/off switch for customers with swimming pool pumps.

2011 Underground Project: On the 2011 Underground project, underground conduit and vault have been installed on Whittemore Street, Belknap to Grant Street (with the exception

of a few transformer pads) and the northern and southern loop of Elsinore Street where it intersects Belknap Street.

Power Outage – Storm: The Town's electrical distribution system held up well during Wednesday night's storm. We had one major outage on circuit 479-41 with smaller scattered outages around Town. The 479-41 outage affected 331 customers and the estimate for the total number of outages for the storm was approximately 400.

POLICE

Storm Damage/Response: During the storm last week that brought severe weather to the State, the Police Department responded to several reports of trees and wires blocking roadways, and assisted CMLP and CPW crews during clean-up operations. Musketaquid Road was closed for several hours due to a tree and electrical wires blocking the roadway. A large tree fell on an unoccupied parked car on Elsinore Street and several power outages caused traffic lights along Rte. 2 and Commonwealth Ave. at Main St. to go on flash. Dispatch was busy during the storm, and did a great job with handling multiple 911 calls and coordinating radio communications between Police, Fire, Light and Public Works resources.

House Break: Police report that there was a house break in Concord last Wednesday morning, but that the suspect was subsequently arrested.

Hanscom Exercise: The Police Department reports that Hanscom Air Field is running a drill tomorrow (June 7) involving a simulated plane crash on the runway near Virginia Road. While Hanscom representatives had not taken steps to notify abutters, Concord Police have taken the initiative of generating a Code red notice, sending out a reverse phone call-back notice, and placing the notification sign board in the area.