



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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## Public Safety Sub-Committee

January 21, 2021

8:00AM

### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

#### Call to Order

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Public Audience

- Email written comments to [ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov) by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 to be read into the record

#### Approval of Minutes

- 1) December 17, 2020 Minutes

#### Updates

- 1) Farmington Valley Health District
- 2) Town Manager's Office
- 3) Emergency Management
- 4) Police
- 5) Ambulance
- 6) Fire
- 7) Board of Education
- 8) Public Works
- 9) Social Services
- 10) VNA
- 11) Main Street Partnership
- 12) Other

#### Adjournment

**Public Safety Subcommittee  
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT  
Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.  
Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream**

Sean Askham called the Special Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 8:02 A.M. via Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream.

Present were: Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; James Baldis, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; Michael Berry, Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Nicholas Boulter, Chief of Police; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Mark Critz, Director of Safety & Security, BOE; Chris Davis, Deputy Chief of Police; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community & Social Services; Mike Long, Police Commissioner; Melissa Marquis, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, FVHD; Mark Massaro, Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist, Eversource; Chris Peterson, Board of Selectmen; Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nurses Association; Karin Stewart, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; Neil Sullivan, Director of Personnel, Simsbury Schools; Gary Wilcox, President, Simsbury Fire District

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Audience**

There was no public audience.

**Approval of Minutes**

1) November 19, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

**Updates**

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Ms. Marquis reported the COVID vaccine is on its way and noted healthcare and first responders with medical responsibility will receive it first. She spoke about the registration process and requested that rosters be sent to her if they haven't been already. Further, she spoke about the Vaccination Administration Management System, or VAMS. She noted the second dose is recommended to be administered 28 days after the first and should be from the same manufacturer as the first. Employees will receive an email to complete a VAMS profile. She then spoke about how the benefits of getting the vaccine outweigh the risks and about immunity. She reported the vaccines are safe and 95% effective. They are made using a new technology that does not use any part of the virus. She indicated they should receive the vaccines next week. She noted appreciation of support from the FVVNA, adding that the drive-through flu clinics were very successful.

Mr. Askham asked about security needs.

Ms. Marquis noted they are taking every precaution and would ask for support from the Police Department for general security and traffic management. She recommended that employees get vaccinated on a staggered schedule due to possible side effects.

Ms. Stewart offered their support with vaccinations. The need to monitor people for 15-30 minutes after being vaccinated was discussed.

Ms. Marquis noted that the Governor and Commissioner of Public Health have issued orders to expand the group administering vaccinations. Lastly, she noted this will be a long vaccination campaign.

## 2) Town Manager's Office

Ms. Capriola provided virus statistics, noting the Town is currently in Red Status, the most severe status. For the two-week period ending December 5, Simsbury has 23.7 cases per 100,000 people, a positivity rate of 4.2% among those tested, with 83 cases during that period. In general, the workforce remains healthy. During the month of November, 19 staff members were quarantined due to contact with a person with the virus. From mid-November to December 1, there were 4 additional staff members with positive cases. She noted response time for non-emergency situations may be delayed and asked residents and patrons for continued patience and understanding as they work through this difficult time. Town Hall and the Library continue to welcome walk-in visitors with limited hours. Town Hall is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and the Library is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays, from late morning until afternoon. Curb-side pick-up of materials is available on the days they are not open to visitors and technology appointments are being offered. In reference to the limited hours, she noted the facilities team is a very small staff and the need to adhere to vigorous cleaning protocols and sector rules. Administrative staff is working in pods at 50% capacity in order to preserve the workforce and the continuity of services. She reported most parks and other facilities are open to some extent. They are working with Culture, Parks and Recreation and state officials on guidance regarding the ice rink. The Senior Center will remain closed until further notice. The travel advisory continues to be updated weekly and patrons are being screened for the travel advisory when coming to Town Hall. The Board of Selectmen has extended the temporary suspension of cash payments until further notice. Lastly, she noted meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

## 3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported they will be working to distribute vaccines to personnel. They are on weekly state and Department of Public Health conference calls to obtain updated information. WSIM continues to put out information. He referenced the first major snowfall, noting they are in contact with Eversource. He reported there was one active outage which has been rectified. Lastly, he noted weekly incident action plans are being issued.

## 4) Police

Chief Boulter reported they continue to have a small number of employees who are directly or indirectly affected by COVID. One officer was hospitalized for a week but is recovering now. He commended Public Works for doing a great job making the roads passable. He reported the Stuff A Cruiser event last week was one of the best ever and noted the generosity of the

community. The pink cruiser is back to its normal color. He noted it was pink for the month of October for breast cancer awareness and for November for cancer awareness in general. PJ Day was December 11. He then thanked everyone at the meeting for their tremendous communication regarding the snow storm, COVID and other preparations.

Deputy Chief Davis echoed Chief Boulter's comments about the road conditions in town and the level of service provided.

#### 5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported they are well staffed. One employee tested positive and has returned to work. They continue to maintain adequate supply of PPE, which is available to anyone that needs it. She noted they will be available to help with the distribution of vaccines.

#### 6) Fire

Chief Baldis reported things are fairly quiet. There was an electrical issue with trees and power lines during last night's storm but it was nothing too serious. They continue to be COVID free. They have submitted their information for the vaccine for all of their EMR and EMT first responders. He reported he has received his CDC appointment request and will be vaccinated on Monday. He spoke about lost persons in the area of Iron Horse Boulevard and the river due to increased activity and overgrowth in that area. Snow tracks have been ordered for the UTV. He thanked the Police Department, Ambulance and Public Works for their support of the Torchlight Parade.

#### 7) Board of Education

Mr. Sullivan reported they are doing okay right now and looking forward to the vaccine. He noted the uptick in cases in the past month and the amount of resources put into contact tracing for many of those cases. Athletic Director Jeff Pinney has been overseeing the contact tracing process. He noted there is no evidence there is spreading of COVID from student to student or from students to teachers. They have been able to effectively contact trace those affected, quarantine them and keep it from spreading within the schools. He noted the school with the most impact is Squadron Line and that has been employee cases. They have come close in terms of a staffing shortage there but were able to make it through that. He reported students will be in school tomorrow and next week will be remote, allowing for no in-person contact from December 18 through January 4. He reported children in quarantine can now connect with their classes remotely.

#### 8) Public Works

Mr. Roy spoke about last night's snowstorm, noting they are keeping an eye on the wind for drifting and power outages. He noted tents were used for resting the crew last night in order to keep them all separated and safe. He thanked the Police Department for their help last night with parked cars on the road. He noted residents can help them by not plowing snow into the road. He reported the custodial department is cleaning and disinfecting buildings four times per day. They continue to social distance. Finally, he noted they enjoyed participating in Simsbury Celebrates.

#### 9) Social Services

Ms. Formanek reported staff has been working very hard, continuing with food programs. The last two Cheese Days have been some of their largest ones. She noted appreciation for the contributions from the community. They are currently wrapping up the holiday program. There has been a tremendous outpouring of donations from the community for that as well. Due to COVID restrictions, they are working with gift cards. Staff is working on the energy assistance program. The hand-sewn masks are still being offered. There is ample supply so they are taking a break from producing more. If anyone needs masks, they are available. Eno Hall continues to be closed to the public. Official guidance from the Health District is that senior centers should remain closed to seniors because they are our most vulnerable citizens. In-person health services are no longer being offered due to that guidance as well. Daily zoom classes continue to be offered to seniors for fitness, socialization, arts and crafts, and many other social and entertaining opportunities.

10) VNA

Ms. Scheetz reported they have no COVID-positive staff. They are ready to partner with the Health District on vaccinations. She added they are very grateful for that partnership. She commended the school system for their ability to contain the spread. Lastly, she noted if anyone needs PPE, please let her know as they have a large amount.

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen provided an update via email prior to the meeting. She reported Simsbury Main Street Partnership continues to hand out KN95 masks to businesses, protecting owners and their staff as they continue providing essential services and goods to the public. They are working with Town Planner Mike Glidden, assisting the FVHD as they continue fielding issues and complaints regarding sector rules for businesses. Abigail's Grille & Wine Bar is closed due to a positive COVID case and will be reopening on Dec. 21. Ms. Nielsen has been working closely with their general manager during this time. Their statement can be found online. Lastly, she reported they have secured an anonymous grant of \$10K for the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, which continues to be a fantastic partner and organization during this pandemic (and always).

12) Other

Chief Baldis reminded people to please shovel snow from fire hydrants.

The group will meet again on Thursday, January 21, at 8:00 A.M.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin  
Commission Clerk