



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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Public Safety Sub-Committee

May 7, 2020

8:00AM

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Audience

Approval of Minutes

- 1) April 30, 2020 Minutes

Coronavirus Response

- 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, April 30, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.
Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream**

Chairman Sean Askham called the Special Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 8:00 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, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Nicholas Boulter, Chief of Police; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Mark Critz, Director of Safety & Security, BOE; Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshal, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; Mark Massaro, Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist, Eversource Energy; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; Chris Peterson, BOS; Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nurses Association; Karin Stewart, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; Neil Sullivan, Director of Personnel, Simsbury Schools; Thomas Roy, Director, Public Works; 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) April 23, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Coronavirus Response

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Mr. Askham read an update from Ms. Kertanis. The FVHD continues to closely track the Governor's Open CT Task Force to provide guidance to towns, businesses and others. They are currently meeting with recreation departments, social services and other departments on implementation of guidelines. They are receiving modest PPE for distribution to community based healthcare providers.

Ms. Capriola added that as of April 28 there were 370 lab-confirmed cases in the FVHD towns, 63 cases in Simsbury, with people over the age of 80 being the largest number of cases, and about 50 deaths in the District related to COVID-19.

2) Town Manager's Office

Ms. Capriola noted public buildings remain closed to the public. She added she is impressed with the creativity of staff, noting the Library is providing remote notary services. The Library

and Social Services are offering virtual programming. The Planning Department is working on implementing residential building inspections using video. She noted increases in work load due to a continued uptick in land record filings and code enforcement cases, and more individuals reaching out to Social Services for assistance who are new contacts. She noted Parks and Golf crews are still reporting to work using modified work practices and keeping those areas maintained. The Transfer Station remains temporarily closed. Residents may contact trash haulers if needed or Public Works for emergency disposal needs. Playgrounds, the skate park, basketball courts, paddle and tennis courts remain closed to the public. Parks for passive recreation are open. Meetings will remain closed to the public through at least May 20. Meetings will continue to be conducted online with public comments submitted through email. She reported they are still determining whether the May 30 Budget Referendum can be held, indicating it is very unlikely. Ms. Capriola noted the Town is accepting donations, adding they have received over 600 hand-sewn face masks from residents. If anyone is in need of a mask, please contact Social Services. They are accepting toiletries, non perishable food items, and gift cards for grocery stores, gas stations and laundromats. Financial donations in the form of checks can be mailed or left in the secure drop box at Eno Hall. Further, she thanked Main Street Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and Andrew Sherman of the Library's Business Resource Center for their support of the business community. She reported there have been no complaints received about signage and noted Planning staff will not be stringent about sign enforcement during this time. Lastly, she reminded residents to sign up for the Town email subscription service on the Town website and to follow the Town on social media.

3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported the State is shifting from emergency mode to recovery mode and a plan for reopening businesses will be released today. He noted recovery teams will be assembled. The Governor's messages are being added to WSIM, as well as an updated listing of open restaurants and businesses. Medical reserve personnel are providing requested assistance to long-term care facilities. He reported the points of distribution, or PODs, are continuing and a second one has been added. They now meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Region 3. He acknowledged there is a scarcity of PPE supply but he was able to make sure the Fire Department got a supply of PPE on Tuesday.

Mr. Kowalski noted they are monitoring the storm coming this week, adding it will be in the action stage with low level flooding and storm water, with between 2-3 inches of rain. He reported they have been communicating daily with the convalescent homes in town, noting this is a very challenging event for them. They have been able to provide more PPE and fit testing for nurses. Regarding the recovery committee, he noted they will be looking someone to chair that committee for the next 4-6 months. It will be a group effort. He noted their focus is on senior citizens, first responders and the business community. 800 masks were picked up for the business community this week.

4) Police

Chief Boulter reported staffing is at adequate levels. Three officers were out for COVID-19 symptoms; two have tested negative and returned to work and the third has a different illness and will return tomorrow. He reported their PPE is adequate. He gave kudos to the custodial staff for cleaning several times per day. He also noted positive feedback about the birthday parades

the Fire Department has been coordinating. Calls for service have been constant and well within reason.

5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported their biggest need regarding PPE is gowns. She noted staff is healthy and call volume is still down, reminding people to please call 911 if needed.

6) Fire

Chief Baldis reported staff is in good shape. He recognized Ms. Stewart and her staff for dealing with COVID-19 patients, noting their PPE protocols are working. He reported calls continue to be quiet. They will be looking at the weather and pumps are ready.

7) Board of Education

Mr. Sullivan reported the guidance from the Governor regarding closing schools is still May 20 but it is not likely they will open before the end of the school year. He noted he has been asked to form a planning group for when they do reopen. They are looking at guidance on summer programs similar to what has been issued for the daycares that have remained open. He reported the grab-n-go meals are at the same level and distance learning continues.

8) Public Works

Mr. Roy reported staffing is still adequate and they continue to practice social distancing. They are looking at plexiglass separators for use in town buildings. He noted they are working on a soft reopening of the transfer station. Lastly, he noted they will be keeping an eye on the heavy rainstorm coming.

9) Social Services

Ms. Capriola noted the Social Services update was covered in her report.

10) VNA

Ms. Scheetz reported her staff is healthy and shared a positive story about a generous donation received.

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen reported they are working with businesses on phase-in and approval for no-contact purchases. She thanked Representative Hampton and Senator Witkos for their assistance. She requested that she be a part of the recovery team, noting she works with all businesses. Lastly, she reported Main Street Partnership hosts the comprehensive business list which can be found at shopsimsbury.com.

12) Other

Chief Baldis added that they have received a replacement rescue boat which is now in service in addition to the inflatable rescue boat put in service last fall.

Mr. Massaro noted the Eversource website lists resources available to residents and businesses and there is a new number for businesses to call for assistance. He will forward that information to the Subcommittee.

The group agreed to meet again next Thursday, May 7, at 8:00 A.M.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk