



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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Public Safety Sub-Committee

May 21, 2020

8:00AM

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Audience

Approval of Minutes

- 1) May 14, 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, May 14, 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; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Jennifer Kertanis, Health Director, FVHD; Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshal, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; 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) May 7, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Coronavirus Response

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Ms. Kertanis reported there are just under 35,000 lab-confirmed cases and 3,000 deaths in the State, 480 positive cases and 74 deaths in the Farmington Valley, a majority of which is over the age of 80 and in long-term care facilities. Simsbury has had 89 cases and ten deaths. Hospitalizations continue to decline while positive cases and deaths continue to increase. She noted the increase in positive cases due to increased testing. She reported just under 1.5% of the population has been tested and that needs to increase. She also spoke about viral testing. They are following the Reopen CT Task Force guidelines to provide the best public health guidance for the May 20 partial reopening. She urged people to take it slow, continue to be vigilant about staying home if sick, follow aggressive hand hygiene and wear a mask. Looking forward to flu season, she is working with the VNA and will be encouraging more people to get vaccinated. There was discussion about testing. Ms. Kertanis will provide the link to testing sites for posting on the Town website.

2) Town Manager's Office

Ms. Capriola reported the transfer station was fully reopened last Saturday with modifications and is accepting brush. The Town and Board of Education tennis courts were reopened late Friday with modified practices. Planning is underway for a soft reopening of municipal services, programs and buildings for the summer. Public buildings remain closed to the public until at least July 4. Staff will continue to screen individuals for appointments needed for services that cannot be provided online. There will be curbside pick up for library materials in June. They are still working on whether the summer camp and pool season can be provided. Facility closures remain in place, including playgrounds, skate parks and basketball courts. Meetings remain closed to the public until further notice and are being aired live using Zoom via SCTV. Regulatory bodies continue to meet, as well as any committees that need to take action. The Budget adoption date is May 19. Applications for the tax deferral program are being accepted and the application is available on the Tax Collector's website. 14 applications have been approved to date, resulting in approximately \$120,000 in deferred revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. Priority donation items for social services include toiletries, laundry detergent, diapers, wipes, baby food, kid-friendly snacks, non-perishable food, and gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations and laundromats. Regarding businesses, she noted staff has been issued the authority to issue permits for temporary outdoor dining for restaurants. Town staff, the FVHD and Fire District have been working collaboratively to establish those guidelines. She reported the Board of Selectmen granted a fee waiver through September 30 for restaurants applying for these permits. She reminded residents they can stay informed through the Town social media accounts and another public service announcement was released last week through SCTV.

3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported they have been busy and continue to monitor conference calls. WSIM continues to pump out information with the school system, the Police Department and now, Foodshare. The small business POD provided PPE on Tuesday and the long-term care POD provided a large amount of PPE on Wednesday. They are starting to switch over from emergency mode to recovery mode.

Mr. Kowalski spoke about recovery, noting they are working with businesses to safely reopen. This includes expanding businesses outside to parking lots and driveways. They are providing guidance on how to do that safely and are working with businesses one-on-one. He spoke about purchasing PPE and reimbursement. Fire safety inspections will restart on June 1 in community areas and open businesses only. The PPE disbursement program for businesses continues weekly. Lastly, they continue to try to obtain as much PPE as possible for firefighters and ambulance.

4) Police

Chief Boulter reported everyone is healthy and about 20% of staff is working remotely. They are working on a plan to bring staff back. The lobby remains closed to the public except for emergencies. They continue to get PPE from the State. Car break-ins continue with cars being left unlocked. He also reported that bears are out.

5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported staff is healthy. Call volume is down, transports are down, and last week there were no COVID transports. They received PPE yesterday and continue to look for more to stock up.

6) Fire

Chief Baldis reported there are no health issues. Call volume continues to stay low. They are planning station-only training using social distancing starting June 1. He reported the District annual meeting took place virtually and the budget was approved by the Fire District with a decrease in the mill rate from 1.2% to 1.19%.

7) Board of Education

Mr. Sullivan reported the Return to Simsbury Schools Task Force met for the first time on Monday. He noted further guidance from the State related to summer programming, summer camp opportunities and graduation ceremonies will be given on May 15.

8) Public Works

Mr. Roy reported they are preparing town buildings for a soft reopening with protections in place. Public Works staff will return to full strength in the next two weeks. He noted they are working on buying hand sanitizer in bulk. He reported the landfill opening went very well. Lastly, he noted construction activity continues.

9) Social Services

Ms. Formanek reported they remain busy. The curb-side food and gift card distribution on Monday served 111 households, noting a spike of about 20-30 households as compared to the monthly Cheese Day numbers. The public and businesses have been generous with food and cash donations. They will continue with the curb-side model for a few months every three weeks going forward. They continue to be the hub for the hand-sewn masks. Over 900 masks have been donated and are being given out. She noted they are working on having an officer outside of Eno Hall giving out masks. They are also working with the Library on a pet food and supply distribution. Finally, she noted they are preparing for working again in the building.

10) VNA

Ms. Scheetz reported her staff is well. They continue to look for PPE, gowns in particular, but are prepared. She reported a surge in non-COVID patients. She spoke about the effectiveness of cloth masks. She encouraged people to continue to follow CDC guidelines on hand washing and staying home. They will be partnering with Social Services to provide drive-through vaccination services this fall.

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen reported they are working with the FVHD, the Fire District, Police, and the Town on the May 20 reopening and outdoor dining protocols. She noted they continue to advocate for businesses at the state level. She sent out a link for a survey that businesses are required to fill out before reopening to receive a Reopen CT badge. Further, she noted flu shot clinics for businesses are being set up with the VNA for the fall. She reported working with Simsbury Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz on wildlife questions. She reminded people there are no

more parades after May 20. Lastly, she noted shopsimsbury.com continues to have the most current business information.

12) Other

The group will meet again next Thursday, May 21, at 8:00 A.M.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk