



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Watch this Public Safety Sub-Committee meeting LIVE and rebroadcast on Comcast Channels 96, 1090, Frontier Channel 6071 and LIVE streamed or on-demand at www.simsburvtv.org

Public Safety Sub-Committee

June 4, 2020

8:00AM

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Audience

Approval of Minutes

- 1) May 21, 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
Thursday, May 21, 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: 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; Mike Long, Police Commissioner; Mark Massaro, Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist; 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

Mr. Askham spoke of Lucy Bowman's passing this week. She was a charter member of the Public Safety Subcommittee and a 57-year member of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. A moment of silence was taken.

Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Audience

There was no public audience.

Approval of Minutes

1) May 14, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Coronavirus Response

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Ms. Kertanis reported there are 39,000 lab-confirmed cases and 3,500 deaths in the State. Simsbury has had 106 cases and 12 deaths. They continue to track infectivity rates. She spoke about a new push from the State to do Point Prevalent Surveys at long-term care facilities, which involves testing everyone, including staff, at facilities on a given day. She noted with the first phase of Reopen Connecticut yesterday, they have been inundated with questions and concerns. She cautioned the public that masks are required for individuals visiting establishments, with some exceptions. She advised the public to protect themselves. Next, she gave an update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), noting continued participation in the weekly distribution. The State is piloting a contact tracing electronic platform. The Health District continues to use a

paper-based system. She noted they are stretched exceedingly thin for the work being done. Questions and discussion about testing followed. Mr. Kowalski noted he is looking into potentially standing up a test site for first responders, town employees and the business community.

2) Town Manager's Office

Ms. Capriola reported the transfer station is providing full services with modified practices. The Town and Board of Education tennis courts are open to members of the same household. Town parks, open space parcels and trails remain open. A soft reopening is being planned for municipal services, programs and buildings for the summer. Beginning June 20, administrative staff will begin a rotating schedule of A and B days. Sewer, highway and facilities crews will be back to full strength after Memorial Day. Parks and golf crews are at full strength. Library staff is doing a soft roll-out of curb-side delivery of materials on hold and plans to do a full roll-out of curb-side pickup of materials on June 1. Parks & Recreation is planning for a potential summer pool and camp season. A tentative date for summer camp is June 22 and the pool for June 20. The Senior Center will potentially open on Labor Day at the earliest. Public buildings will remain closed to the public through at least July 5. At the discretion of staff appointments are being taken for matters that cannot be conducted virtually, by phone or through the mail. They are potentially going to temporarily suspend cash payments through approximately Labor Day. When in the building employees are required to wear face coverings. Over 900 face coverings have been donated and Social Services continues to coordinate their distribution. Building modifications are being planned. Public agency meetings remain closed to the public until further notice. Meetings cannot exceed five people through at least June 20. Meetings are being conducted using Zoom and aired live on SCTV. Very few advisory committees are meeting unless there is urgent business. Because there could be no referendum, the Board of Finance adopted a budget on Tuesday. The Fire District also adopted its budget. The Town mill rate for fiscal year 2020/2021 was set at 37.09 mills and the Fire District's at 1.19 mills, totaling a mill rate of 38.28. This reflects a mill rate decrease of about \$50 savings for the median-valued home. The property tax deferral program is open. The application is posted on the Tax Collector's website. 25 applications have been approved, totaling just under \$170,000 in deferred revenue to date. Social Services continues to accept financial donations, toiletries, diapers, wipes, baby food, kid-friendly snacks, laundry detergent and non-perishable food items.

Mr. Askham noted that the Deputy Police Chief position and the additional Lieutenant position were approved by the Board of Finance for funding.

3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported they have stabilized as they monitor the reopening of the State. He noted Web DOC has been given more money and will become more robust for communication with the State. WSIM continues to pump out information for residents. He noted the change in seasons with storms and severe weather and advised residents to be prepared. Lastly, he gave an update on PPE, noting more equipment will be coming in.

Mr. Kowalski reported there was a PPE pick-up this week, which supplied over 875 masks and 54 infrared thermometers, which are being distributed to businesses by Ms. Nielsen. As

businesses reopen they are doing fire safety and emergency management inspections. Lastly, he referenced the possibility of testing as noted earlier.

4) Police

Chief Boulter reported staff is healthy and about 20% of staff is still working remotely and coming in when needed. They are following guidelines for transitioning staff back in. Types of calls for service are increasing and include noise complaints. They are preparing for potential complaints related to violations or compliance with the reopening. He reported there is an increase in traffic and expects much more. Parks and open spaces are very busy and people are parking in places they normally don't. The bears are out. He noted an indecent exposure on the southern part of the greenway trail is being investigated. They are preparing for more issues as more people are out. He also noted they will be moving forward to prepare for the public safety radio system that was just approved.

5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported staff is healthy. They received a large distribution of PPE yesterday from the State, including some that is more appropriate for the public and will be shared. Call volume is still down and she reminded the public to call 911 if they are experiencing chest pain, shortness of breath or any other issues, without delaying the call.

6) Fire

Chief Baldis noted volunteers and their families continue to be virus-free. More hands-on training is being planned and will start on June 1. Call volume continues to be low and response to calls has been great. He noted Lucy Bowman will be greatly missed and is here with us in spirit. He spoke about the great impact she had on the community.

7) Board of Education

Mr. Sullivan reported buildings will be opened for access by staff and custodians will begin working as a full crew starting May 26. Teachers may also come in then to close up their rooms for the year. Most office staff will continue to work from home and may potentially begin a staggered schedule in the office with a target date of June 20. Guidance as of yesterday about summer school is being processed. The focus will be on Extended School Year (ESY) teaching for special education students and remediation efforts especially for high school students needing credits. Enrichment programming will not take place, given restrictions of the guidance. Parks & Recreation camps will be up and running, including Camp Stuff to Do, which will be run at Memorial Park with Central School serving as emergency shelter in the event of a pop-up storm. The Reopening Simsbury Schools Task Force will meet again next week and is looking at guidance. He should have high school graduation plan details for the next meeting.

Mr. Critz reported the grab-n-go lunches continue with the average number of people taking part. There will be no food distributed on Memorial Day but it will resume on Wednesday.

8) Public Works

Mr. Roy reported crews will be back to full staffing with controls and procedures in place starting Tuesday. They are working with Buildings & Grounds staff to reopen town buildings to

the public with modifications to work areas. They have been working with Main Street Partnership to purchase hand sanitizer in bulk.

9) Social Services

Ms. Formanek noted they continue to coordinate donations and are collecting non-perishable food, toiletries, household and baby items, and pet food and pet care items. The curb-side distribution continues and will be held every three weeks through the summer. Participation has increased with 115 households taking part as compared to Cheese Day participation of about 80. They continue to coordinate the hand-sewn masks and over 900 have been donated. They will be working with the Police Department to distribute those outside Eno Hall. She reported staff is healthy and available. The Senior Center will probably not open until the fall. Zoom programming is being organized and other information will be sent out electronically. They are working on plans to be back in the buildings and will participate in the long-term recovery committee.

10) VNA

Ms. Scheetz reported staff is healthy. They are taking care of COVID-19 cases. They have enough PPE and received infrared thermometers. In light of the Senior Center being closed, she noted her staff is available to go to people's homes to do blood pressure or wellness checks. She and Ms. Formanek agreed to work on an email blast offering those services.

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen thanked all involved in helping with outdoor dining, which began yesterday. She noted the reopening process went well. The shopsimsbury.com list of open restaurants and businesses continues to have the most current information, as well as their Facebook page. She reminded residents to be cautious per guidelines and noted restaurants are still offering take-out for those not yet comfortable eating out. She has been distributing PPE and thermal scans to businesses. She has been working with non-essential businesses to reopen using safety protocols. Hand sanitizer has been ordered in bulk and some has been donated by Dyno Nobel. Lastly, she asked residents to support Simsbury businesses.

12) Other

Mr. Massaro gave an update from Eversource. He reported there are scams going on regarding disconnects for non payment. They issued an email on this and have posted information on their website, eversource.com. Residents should contact them if they need help with payment arrangements.

The group will meet again in two weeks on Thursday, June 4, at 8:00 A.M. and on June 18th at 8:00 A.M.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Safety Subcommittee
May 21, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk