

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - MAY 31, 2018
“SUBJECT TO APPROVAL”**

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sean Askham called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 7:03 A.M. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Present were: **James Baldis**, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Nicholas Boulter**, Police Chief; **Lucy Bowman**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Kevin Kowalski**, Deputy Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; and **Kevin Clemens**, Highway Superintendent, Public Works. Also in attendance were Michael Berry, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Ed LaMontagne, Executive Director, Housing Authority; Chris Peterson, Selectman, Board of Selectmen; Kevin Witkos, CT State Senator; and Karen Haberlin, Commission Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at Public Audience.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 15, 2018

The March 15, 2018 Minutes include the following change:

- Under *Police*, the portion of text that reads, “He noted there will be a medication drop box...” should read, “He noted there is a medication drop box...”.

The Minutes were approved with that edit.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance - Mr. Delehanty reported they have four new part-time paramedics in the process of coming on line. The past couple of months were busy with at least six cardiac arrests, all of which resulted in return of spontaneous circulation. Mr. Askham noted the Board of Selectmen approved the tax abatement grant application last night.

Board of Education - No representative attended this meeting.

Civil Preparedness - Mr. Kowalski congratulated Chief Boulter on his promotion to Police Chief and Fred Sifodaskalakis on his graduation from the Academy. He noted that during the recent storm in Brookfield, they were ready to send crews immediately. He thanked those that went for stepping up and going out to help. He noted in the next month or two the Town-wide frequency will be upgraded. The Fire Department switched over to First Net through AT&T. In the first phase it has been cost-effective, saving about thirty percent on the cell phone bill. This will also enable direct connect between the phones and the radio system. He noted the iPads on the trucks will also be transferred over to First Net.

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Lastly, he noted the Verizon coverage in the center of Town is still poor. Ms. Capriola will check with Planning and IT to get a status on that.

Farmington Valley Health District - No Report

Fire - Chief Baldis reported they have been somewhat busy. There was an 1800's barn fire on Old Farms Road. No one was hurt. Damage was limited to the property and it is under investigation. A second fire occurred on Wood Chuck Hill in a metal barn. The possible cause is a heating lamp used in connection with young chickens. After the recent storms, they were asked for help in Brookfield. The rescue truck was sent with a crew of five people to help there. They spent a day there going from house to house and did a great job. They just took delivery on the new replacement rescue truck in Tariffville. Rescue 15 was replaced by a smaller unit, which will be able to get up the mountain for rescues. For the Project Lifesaver Program a new tracking device was just approved for purchase. Mr. Kowalski invited Committee members to participate in or watch a fire training exercise on June 18 at 6:00 P.M. at the burn center. It was noted membership is at eighty-seven, which is very strong.

Police - Mr. Askham congratulated Chief Boulter on his promotion to Police Chief. Chief Boulter reported two distracted driving events were presented to the high school population. He thanked Social Services which provided funding to co-sponsor that. He noted they have a high seat belt usage but a very low distracted driving compliance. He added Click it or Ticket is running now through June 3, adding they have a ninety-two to ninety-eight percent compliance on that. He reported a slight uptick in residential burglaries, five in a one-to-two month period, mostly during the day. He noted officers will come out to anyone's property to offer a survey. They are working with the Bike Advisory Committee to reapply for the Bike-Friendly Community designation. Also being offered is a bike safety program, Click it for an Ice Cream Ticket. Chief Boulter also thanked Public Works for its enhanced security during the Memorial Day Parade.

Public Works - Mr. Clemens reported a crew was sent to Southbury, which went well and was well received. He noted the plow trucks were used at the Memorial Day Parade and will be used for the Iron Horse Boulevard Half Marathon. There will be a household hazardous waste collection on June 9. Accepted items are listed on the website. He noted a big project on East Weatogue Street, which is in the cosmetic stages now. They have been paving and four roads are completed. Mr. Clemens also noted the recent storm went through the Holcomb Street area, taking down several trees.

Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported on the Distracted Driving campaigns and the Click it for an Ice Cream Ticket bike safety program. She noted there have been some events for Drug Prevention Week with Community for Care. There was a community discussion on *Seventh Wish*, a children's book about heroin addiction. They sponsored a Narcan training which was attended by nine adults. She added Narcan kits were provided and the remaining kits were donated to Eno Hall and the Police Department. Ms. Formanek will be attending a full day program on mental health First Aid next week. She reported they are working on the Eno Hall renovations which should start next week. During that time, the Wednesday senior lunches will be held at the Mason Lodge.

Other Updates - Senator Witkos offered his congratulations to Chief Boulter as well. He reported on the storm damage in New Milford and Brookfield and thanked those from Simsbury who went down to help. In 2018 there will be fifty-five miles of tree trimming in Simsbury. The map showing where the tree trimming will be done is posted on the Public Works website. Discussion followed regarding getting that message out to residents. Senator Witkos noted Eversource is pleased and proud to sponsor the ticket booth on Iron Horse Boulevard with \$8,000 and the Maker Faire with a \$500 donation. Lastly, Senator Witkos gave the Committee a Senate update.

Mr. LaMontagne reported they are working on the road repaving and new sidewalks at the Virginia Connelly Residences, which will necessitate the closing of one of the entrances for a period of time. He noted they will work with the contractors to ensure there are at least three points of egress at all times. He will notify Fire, Police and Ambulance when this will occur. Mr. LaMontagne also reported he is working with HUD to make the Murphy Apartments smoke-free by the end of 2018. Mr. Askham noted the Board of Selectmen designated a handicapped parking awareness month. Ms. Capriola gave a brief update on the recent leadership changes. Finally, Mr. Askham noted the budget referendum passed which allowed services to be maintained and enhanced, including adding a social worker to the Social Services Department and the Board of Education. He also made note of the municipal storm water ordinance.

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

a) Review of June 2018 State Emergency Exercise

Mr. Kowalski noted Simsbury will participate in the June 20 exercise as required. It will take place at 8:00 A.M. Given the number of changes in the last year, it was decided the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will open a half an hour before the actual time of the incident. They will work their way down the call list. Mr. Kowalski asked Committee members to update their emergency operation plans and make any necessary changes.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham adjourned the meeting at 7:56 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk