

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - JULY 19, 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 7:00 A.M. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Present were: **James Baldis**, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Lucy Bowman**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Kevin Kowalski**, Deputy Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; **Fred Sifodaskalakis**, Lieutenant, Simsbury Police Department; **Karin Stewart**, Chief Administrative Paramedic, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Michael Berry, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; Nancy Scheetz, Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association; 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 Special Meeting on May 31, 2018

The May 31, 2018 Minutes include the following change:

- Under *Social Services*, in the last sentence the word “Mason” should be “Masonic.”

The Minutes were approved with that edit.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance - Ms. Stewart reported the last few months have been uneventful. Community outreach programs have been a focus. A presentation was offered at Powder Forest Homes which covered stroke assessment, CPR, calling 911 and how to use the hands-free feature on cell phones. About thirty people attended. Daycare show and tells are being offered, as well as, helping out with the Police Academy.

Board of Education - No representative attended this meeting.

Civil Preparedness - Mr. Kowalski noted there will be twelve hundred additional families in the community in the next one to two years with the apartments that are being built. He added those families' expectations during an emergency are very different than those living in homes. This will make an impact on the community services provided.

Farmington Valley Health District - No representative attended this meeting.

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Fire - Chief Baldis reported delivery has been taken for two new pieces of apparatus, one replacing Rescue 15 in Tariffville with a smaller, more nimble unit. The second is a new engine replacing Engine 16 in Tariffville with a larger unit. He noted the old apparatuses will be sold. The department has been busy. He added people need to be aware of these weather storms and downed trees and potentially live wires.

Police - Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis noted the recent storm and reported it has been busy. He added Alex Cruz is the newest officer and has been assigned second shift. He reported a new water barricade is being used with the Fire Department. He noted two new promotions within the Department. Tom Sheehan has been promoted to Lieutenant. Brad Chase is the newest Sergeant and is on midnight shift. Lastly, he noted there is a lot of construction going on in Town with road work.

Public Works - Mr. Roy remarked on the recent storms and the need to push the message to take every warning seriously. He reported on the generators being installed at facilities in Town, noting that the original plan has been changed to install permanent generators, instead of a portable unit, at Eno Hall and Simsbury Public Library. This will allow for the ability to use these facilities as day shelters, charging stations and cooling shelters.

Social Services - No representative attended this meeting.

Other Updates - Senator Witkos gave an Eversource update, noting just under ten thousand customers were without power Tuesday night across the State. He noted Eversource volunteers for 501(c)(3) organizations and if anyone knows of one that would like to have them come volunteer for a day, let him know. Foodshare and Fidelco Guide Dog are two examples of organizations where they volunteer. He noted the latest emergency response plan has been provided to Ms. Capriola and hard copies can be made available. Senator Witkos added he is working with the Town to hold a forum on online gambling and sports betting at Eno Hall in September or October. There was brief discussion about the tree trimming in Town.

Ms. Capriola noted a recent vacancy of the Planning and Community Development Director position. Michael Glidden is filling in as the Interim Planning and Community Development Director.

Ms. Nielsen reported a Simsbury Celebrates committee met to discuss Culture, Parks and Recreation not being able to sustain all that has been done in the past. Streamlining and the possibility of shortening the event by one hour were discussed.

There was brief discussion on the status of cell tower boosters, switching carriers and coverage.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Regarding the solar farm, the Town is continuing its settlement discussions. More of an update will be available in a month or so.

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

a) Statewide Emergency Exercise After Action Report Review

Mr. Berry recently attended emergency management training and was in charge of the last State response effort. He reported it was a large volume water drill. He discussed prevention, environmental and health

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concerns. Regarding preparedness he noted planning is in place and the drill was well attended. He further discussed training, equipment, warnings, response, mass sheltering, recovery and mitigation. Discussion ensued and attendees were asked to continually review their operations plans.

Mr. Wilcox noted the June burn drill that was cancelled due to hot weather will be rescheduled for September or October.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham adjourned the meeting at 7:48 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk