

Public Safety Subcommittee
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.
Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream

Mr. Askham called the Regular 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**, Emergency Management Director; **Nicholas Boulter**, Chief of Police; **Maria Capriola**, Town Manager; **Chris Davis**, Deputy Chief of Police; **Kristen Formanek**, Director of Community & Social Services; **Jennifer Kertanis**, Farmington Valley Health District; **Mike Long**, Police Commissioner; **Wendy Mackstutis**, First Selectman; **Chris Peterson**, Selectman; **Tom Roy**, Director of Public Works; **Nancy Scheetz**, CEO Visiting Nurses Association; **Karin Stewart**, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Patrick Tourville**, Fire Marshall; **Jim Traficante**, Assistant Emergency Management Director and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District

Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Audience

Mr. Askham confirmed there was no one on the line for public audience and reminded everyone of the email address to send in written comments. He mentioned the e-mail correspondence received was sent to all members to read.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the June 16, 2022 were accepted as presented.

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Ms. Kertanis said they are distributing the COVID booster vaccines from their Canton office on Monday's and Fridays and they will share the registration information with the Town Manager. She added they will be offering flu vaccines to small businesses. She said they are posting COVID data on their website on Mondays which only reports on lab test kits and not home test kits. She added they are working closely with the 10 school systems regarding protocols when testing positive as well as monitoring and stopping transmission outbreaks and clusters. She said they are working on the Community Health Assessment document that summarizes the health status of their communities and will be conducting forums to share information once finalized. She said the goal is to develop a health improvement plan for the Farmington Valley. Ms. Kertanis reported on a new pilot project launched recently where the Emergency Medical Services have received Narcan test kits and information packets to be made available to their first responders to distribute to family members or friends of overdose victims. Ms. Scheetz asked about a flu going around with COVID like systems, and Mr. Kertanis said she'll share if they receive any information on it.

2) Town Manager's Office

Ms. Capriola reported that the health district is still providing COVID vaccines and boosters to

everyone age 18 and over on Monday's and Fridays at their Canton location. She added they are also offering onsite flu clinics for businesses with 10 or more employees. She said that the Town Managers office had a meeting with Frontier about work that will be happening in the town.

3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported they have had a quiet hurricane season so far and they are keeping on top of all weather patterns during briefings with the National Weather Service. They are also monitoring the river levels which are currently low. He said they are making updates to the Emergency Operations Plan which is being reviewed and once approved they will be sent out to the group and published. He said he is part of a cyber security group who are working on reducing the ransomware and different attacks on municipalities and school systems. He added that he is pleased with the level of protection the Town has in these areas but will continue to work to improve security levels. They are working with Social Services to develop a sheltering plan and exercise and will update the group with details once it is developed further. He reported a recent issue with WSIM, the radio station in town 103.5fm, who were streaming last week but the transmitter was not transmitting, and he asked the public to report issues as soon as they notice them. Mr. Berry reported on the meeting with Frontier who are working on a plan to bring fiber to the Town offering residential services. He said his main area of concern is around how they will respond to emergencies and said they have had issues with them in the past with communications. He said he asked them to model their system with how the Town works with Eversource. He added he is pleased with Mr. Massaro, his partnership, and communications with the Town and the group. He said they have distributed all of the Towns available COVID test kits and said if these are needed people can go through the Federal website to get kits delivered.

4) Police

Chief Boulter thanked Mr. Wilcox and Chief Baldis who held a recognition ceremony for the firefighters, the police officers and the dispatcher involved in the July 6th house fire and said there is footage on their Facebook page if anyone would like to review.

5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported they have received the Narcan kits and received approval to distribute them to residents having issues with opioids. She brought up a safety concern around access to the Arts and Craft Festival and asked that this location and access be looked into for next year. She said they are also meeting with the Police Department to review the Emergency Medical Dispatch system to ensure their units are being appropriately dispatched to calls. She added there will be information posted about an EMT class in January. She reported quarterly numbers for the Simsbury ambulance and confirmed that in the last 2 weeks car 17 has been 100% staffed and the call volume is there for it. Mr. Askham asked questions and Ms. Stewart provided some details on the numbers, and how they operate, and added a full detailed report will be included in the minutes. Ms. Kertanis asked about calls for service that were lift assists who refused transport and mentioned she will touch base to connect on their Fall Prevention Program. Chief Tourville mentioned their "*Steps to Safety*" program on fall and injury prevention for seniors which will be launched soon, and requested to work with both agencies to increase participation. Ms. Scheetz added that they send out occupational therapists and physical therapists to do home safety assessments in coordination with the existing programs out there.

Ms. Stewart answered a question on charging for lift assist calls and said this is something they do not currently do. Chief Boulter also asked to be kept in the loop on fall reports as did Ms. Formanek. Mr. Askham asked Ms. Capriola to arrange a follow up to all concerned to ensure they are getting the same information.

6) Fire

Mr. Tourville spoke about the Fly-in and said notices went out about traffic etc. He commended the promoters for working and communicating with all the local agencies. He mentioned the construction at Latimer Lane in the Fall as the plans were submitted and approved. He said Fire Prevention week is October 9th through the 15th and the theme is "*Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape*" and said they will be out in the public, visiting civic groups and schools doing fire education throughout the month. He reminded the public to also start preparing for the Winter by ensuring their chimneys are cleaned and equipment has been serviced, which will help reduce the impact on chimney fires and related events within the homes. He mentioned a planned event involving fireworks; they will be working with the Town to get these publicized so people can prepare. Ms. Scheetz commended the Fire Department for their involvement and coordination with the Simsbury Farms celebration event. Mr. Askham asked a question on the construction at Latimer which Mr. Tourville confirmed the project is going out to bid and not happening yet. Mr. Askham confirmed there is an aggressive timeline to get it back out to referendum. Chief Baldis mentioned the program at the Fire Department and said the town should be proud of their First Responders. He said everything went without a hitch at this year's Town's events. He added the Goodrich building is open which is a large residential center and they are now seeing a few alarms at that building. He reminded residents of the no open burning ordinance and mentioned the planning of the Simsbury Celebrates program. He mentioned the high heating costs and reminded residents about being safe and not using alternative heating sources. Mr. Wilcox spoke about safety and the speed on which fire happens and reminded residents to sleep with their bedroom door closed. He spoke about the Aquarion water rate increase and said they will be meeting to discuss and hopefully moderate the 30% increase. Mr. Askham spoke further on the topic and said there will be a virtual public hearing coming up on the topic. Mr. Wilcox invited residents to join in on the meeting if they are available. Ms. Capriola said they have information on this topic on their website, including the dates of the hearing, and mentioned written testimony is being worked on to submit for the public hearing.

7) Board of Education

No Update.

8) Public Works and Engineering

Mr. Roy reported they are in the process of implementing a new work order system which will allow residents to report issues along the roadways. He mentioned other benefits of the system including that it will be integrated with other departments. He mentioned they are collaborating with the Police Department on the number of barricades for public events which involves a lot of staff power. He said they are also working with the local Traffic Authority group on intersection safety improvements which they hope to roll out next construction season. There was a conversation around the issues with congestion at the traffic light at the Big Y on Route 10, and Mr. Roy said he is talking with the DOT around a new project they are working on to replace the technology with traffic lights in general before the end of the year.

9) Social Services

Ms. Formanek spoke about the conclusion of their Renters Rebate program for 2021 and asked residents to get in touch if they need help with this. She added they are starting their energy assistance season and encouraged residents to call the office for information and said she will also remind residents to be safe with alternative heating sources. She asked for volunteers to contact their office if they would like to participate in the holiday gifts and toys program. Ms. Formanek also reminded everyone that they are still seeking hygiene products, household cleaning items, and paper goods for the Food Pantry

10) VNA

Ms. Scheetz reminded everyone that they will be having flu clinics and have the flu vaccines ready for the upcoming season.

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Neilson sent in an update reporting that a survey will be sent out from the cell phone group soon, and they are working with the Police Department to address the rise in theft and shoplifting.

12) Eversource

No Update.

13) Other

Mr. Peterson commended the Recognition Ceremony at the Fire Station last week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Lynott
Commission Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sean Askham
Simsbury Public Safety Committee

FROM: Karin Stewart

DATE: October 6, 2022

RE: SVAA Call Volume
January 2022 through September 2022

As requested, we are providing the Public Safety Committee with our call volume numbers. At the previous meeting I presented numbers through August 2022. I would like to update those numbers with our data through the end of September.

Quarter	Total 911 Calls	Total SVAA Dispatches	Total SVAA Transports	Mutual Aid into Simsbury	Mutual Aid Out of Simsbury
Jan-March	654	567	360	84	51
April-June	722	583	370	120	45
July-Sept	712	649	418	84	57
Total	2088	1799	1148	288	153

I also have an update for the October Second Response Unit Schedule. We currently are 100% covered for the month of October.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.