

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 18, 2017  
“Subject to Approval”**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**Sean Askham** called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017 in the Main Meeting Room located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. The following members were also present: **James Baldis**, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department, **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, **Kevin Kowalski**, Deputy Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department, **Burke LaClair**, Business Manager, Board of Education, **Mickey Lecours-Beck**, Director, Town of Simsbury Social Services, **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works, **Fred Sifodaskalakis**, Lieutenant, Simsbury Police Department and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Matthew Christian, Training Administrative Sergeant, Simsbury Police, Melissa Marquis, Farmington Valley Health District, Sarah Nielson, Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nurse Association and Leslie Brigham, Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

No one spoke at Public Audience.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Approve Minutes from Regular Meeting on March 16, 2017

The March 16, 2017 minutes were amended as follows:

Page 1, first paragraph should be added to the last sentence, "Mike Long, Simsbury Police, Simsbury Police Commission"..

Mickey Lecours-Beck made a motion to approve the minutes as amended above for the Public Safety Sub-committee on March 16, 2017. Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Page 1, Updates and Reports, A. Ambulance, the portion of the last sentence that reads "...Karan Stewart..." the correct spelling should read, "...Karin Stewart..."

Chief Baldis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended above for the Public Safety Sub-committee on March 16, 2017. Mickey Lecours-Beck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **2. UPDATES AND REPORTS**

- **Ambulance** – Mr. Delehanty noted that they just recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He reported that there were joined by current and former members, some of which joined as far back as 1961. Mr. Delehanty was pleased that Chief Baldis and Mr. Wilcox could join them in this celebration.

Mr. Delehanty stated that they will need to develop a new local EMS plan, which is part of the new legislation. He noted that this will be reviewed over a five year cycle going forward.

- **Board of Education** –Mr. LaClair thanked the Police and Public Works for assisting in Safety at School program. He also thanked Mr. Kowalski and the Fire Marshall for reviewing several of the Board of Education projects at the schools that are starting up this summer.
- **Civil Preparedness** –Mr. Kowalski commended the high school management team for their exercise in planning for their re-certification plan. He noted that it took six months to complete and that they coordinated all of it and exercised it during the day.
- **Farmington Valley Health District** – Melissa Marquis noted that they are working to update their plans and working with the CDC on a few projects.
- **Fire** – Chief Baldis noted that the current recruitment activity had started with signs placed around Town. He stated that this is an effort that is going on state wide and is part of a Grant from the Fire Chief Association and the Connecticut Fire Chiefs under the workforce solutions.

Chief Baldis noted that they are able to maintain strong numbers for Simsbury, which is currently 85 strong and it continues to be the average over a 20 year period. He noted that they received three applications for membership and that there is still interest coming in.

Chief Baldis reminded members that the Annual Golf Tournament will be held June 15 and everyone is welcome to participate. He noted that this is the Volunteer Firemen’s fundraiser as well as the Women’s Auxiliary.

Chief Baldis was happy to report that Mr. Kowalski, Deputy Chief and Fire Marshall, was inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Hall of Fame in the first part of April. He noted that this is a very high honor for Mr. Kowalski as well as the Fire Company and Fire District.

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- **Police** – Sergeant Christian discussed recent hoarding situations in Town as well as the Distracted Driving event recently held. He noted that, working with Social Services, there will be another event starting next Tuesday.

Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis discussed the recent car break-ins in Town but noted that the cars are not actually locked. He stated that residents are leaving valuables in these cars and they are being stolen. Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis stated that part of the Press Release is to remind residents to lock their vehicles and put away valuables.

- **Public Works** – Mr. Roy was pleased to announce that all Public Works employees have gone through a custom First Aid training. This training was to learn what to do in the few minutes before First Responders arrive.
- **Social Services** – Ms. Lecours-Beck noted that they have finally finished the Energy Assistance Program for the year with 163 applications and that it brought \$100,000 of Federal dollars back to Simsbury.

Ms. Beck thanked the Fire Department for their assistance with the Senior Pancake Breakfast last week. She noted that there were about 75 seniors.

- **Other Updates** – Ms. Nielson thanked Sergeant Christian and Officer Gray for their assistance with Pedestrian safety in the crosswalks.

Mr. Askham noted that the budget has gone from trouble to worse. He noted that the Town will be losing upwards of \$6 million of state assistance. He noted it could go as high as \$11 million. Mr. Askham stated that originally the Board of Finance was planning \$2 to \$3 million loss from the State. He noted that the Board of Education has done a great job going back and looking at their budget.

Mr. Askham explained that this budget will not be a one year problem and next year the deficit will continue to grow. It is likely that the Town will continue to lose municipal aid and access to Grants. He discussed more issues with the budget and what may occur in the future.

Mr. Askham noted that the Board of Finance will have their last meeting to discuss the budget next week. He stated that next Friday will be the last day for approval of the budget in order to be filed in time with the Town Clerk. Mr. Askham reminded members that the referendum will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

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**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Update the PAC Storm Emergency Plan

Mr. Askham noted that it has been five years since this plan has been put into place and needs to be reviewed.

Mr. Kowalski distributed and discussed the scenario for the PACE Storm Emergency Plan to members and asked them to review and get back to him with any questions or comments.

Mr. Wilcox noted that the Fire District had their annual meeting earlier this month and their projected 0% budget increase was achieved and they will keep the same mill rate as the year before.

Chief Baldis reminded members of the Memorial Day parade and that it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He noted that are a few events being added this year, which includes an ice cream give away at the Library.

**4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE**

No exercise discussed at this meeting.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Baldis seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Brigham  
Clerk