

Simsbury Board of Selectmen – Public Safety Subcommittee
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 7:00AM
Simsbury Town Hall – Main Meeting Room
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut

PRESENT:

Chairman Sean Askham, Board of Selectmen
Chris Kelly, Board of Selectmen
James Baldis, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department,
Kevin Kowalski, Deputy Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department
Gary Wilcox, President, Simsbury Fire District
Mickey Lecours-Beck, Director, Simsbury Social Services
Peter Ingvertson, Chief, Simsbury Police Department
Fred Sifodaskalaskas, Lieutenant, Simsbury Police Department
Sarah Nielsen, Executive Director, Simsbury Main Street Partnership
Tony Uanino, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce
Michael Delehanty, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance
Thomas Roy, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jeff Cochrain, Town Liaison, Eversource
Honorable Kevin Witkos, State Senator – 8th District
Lucy Bowman, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance

The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available through Simsbury Town Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sean Askham called the meeting to order at 7:03AM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

No one spoke at Public Audience.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MINUTES:

The November 19, 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted.

5. UPDATES AND REPORTS:

A. Ambulance.

Mr. Michael Delhanty reported that the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance has moved forward with getting a third ambulance and is going through the application process with the state. He noted that this is complete but for the wait period. He reported that they expect to take delivery on this within the next couple of weeks.

B. Board of Education.

No business discussed.

C. Civil Preparedness.

Deputy Chief Kevin Kowalski reported that the update on the Emergency Operation Plan is complete. He noted that he will be sending this out electronically. Mr. Kowalski offered that if anyone should want one printed, he would do so but noted that it will fill a three inch binder. He noted that a copy will be with the First Selectman as well as the Town Clerk. Mr. Kowalski also reported that the fire department

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has successfully transferred from an older radio system to a new simulcasting system which he noted was working out extremely well. He commented that this allows them to have three repeaters that are fairly new and noted they are looking into getting that attached to the town-wide frequency. He noted that they will be looking into the development of this program and getting this approved by the district to facilitate the surplus radios to operate on the town wide net. Mr. Kowalski also reported that the WSIM station is up and running, and can be found on channel 103.5FM.

D. Fire.

Chief James Baldis reminded the group that they took delivery of their new self-contained breathing apparatus and have successfully trained and implemented a conversion to the new system. He noted that they now have eighty-nine (89) new self-contained breathing apparatuses. Mr. Baldis noted that they also have two (2) new rescue packs and two (2) new pack-trackers, which are honing devices that allow the department to find a downed firefighter. He noted that this is all part of fire district funding and FEMA \$465K grant awarded, a project which had totaled \$750K. Mr. Baldis reported that there was a significant fire on Oakwood Road, on January 4, 2015 at 1:30AM, resulting in significant kitchen damage. He noted that the sleeping occupants were able to escape despite the fact that there were no working smoke detectors in the home. Because the home was a ranch style house and the residents' bedroom doors had been closed, they were fortunate to escape, he noted. However the importance of smoke detectors must continue to be stressed, according to Mr. Baldis.

E. Farmington Valley Health District.

No business discussed.

F. Police.

Chief Peter Ingvertson reported that the police department has been working with Town Hall employees to prepare them for a drill. He noted that they will then move on to Eno Memorial Hall as well as the library to educate them on how to evacuate the building should a need arise and how departments should notify other departments should an incident occur.

G. Social Services.

Ms. Mickey Lecours-Beck reported that two weeks ago Social Services took delivery of a Dial-A-Ride bus, a 2016 Chevrolet twelve passenger van. She noted that this was achieved through a federal state grant, with an 80/20 split. Ms. Lecours-Beck noted that a 2015 van was also purchased eighteen months ago through donations.

H. Public Works.

Thomas Roy, P.E., reported that their 200watt portable generator arrived just this week. He noted that this will be used to supplement the generator at Town Hall and possibly be able to support both Eno Memorial Hall and the library. Mr. Roy noted that day to day, it will be used by the WPCA so the cost was split between the two departments. Additionally, Mr. Roy reported that the salt shed is done so the town now has the capability of holding an entire year's worth of salt. He noted that next month, he will have a report for the Conservation Commission regarding the brush clearing that was undertaken to support the recent police investigation. He noted that the request for private cameras on Iron Horse Boulevard have been handed over to Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo. Mr. Roy noted that this matter will return to this subcommittee.

I. Other Updates.

Honorable Kevin Witkos reported that the General Assembly will reconvene on February 3, 2016, acknowledging that many issues will be coming up noting the recent resignation of the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner and the budget deficit.

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Mr. Ingvertson questioned Sen. Witkos about the body cameras for policemen. Sen. Witkos reported that there is a \$10M appropriation for body cameras that if the police department put in for, the reimbursement is 100%. For every year participation is delayed in the program, reimbursement is reduced, according to Sen. Witkos. He noted that data storage is going to be very expensive which will not be part of the state's reimbursement. Sen. Witkos noted that departments will likely follow the state's retention schedule which he believed was thirty days. Sen. Witkos noted that this is a voluntary program at this point and that policy is established by individual departments as to who gets the body cameras. He noted that the only stipulation is that if a camera is provided to a patrol officer, then all patrol officers must be provided with them or if a detective is provided with one, then all detectives must be provided with them and so on. In response to a question from Lieutenant Fred Sifodaskalaskas, Sen. Witkos noted that policy is still being developed in this regard.

Discussion ensued regarding the technological aspects and budget implications related to body cameras for the police department.

Ms. Nielson reported that Simsbury Main Street Partnership, along with the Town, have embarked on a parking audit with Desman Associates. She noted that one of the goals of this project is to improve public safety downtown for pedestrians and cyclists as well as automobiles. Ms. Nielson noted that communications with the various groups will occur as the project moves forward and also noted that Main Street received a \$10K Preservation of Place Grant to complete the study.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

No business was discussed.

7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE:

Mr. Kowalski noted that preparations for the drill in April, 2016 are still underway.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Roy, Mr. Ingvertson second, **to adjourn at 7:28AM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela Colombie,
Recording Clerk**