

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 21, 2015
“Subject to Approval”**

Page | 1

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Kelly, Chairman, called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 7:00a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2015 in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. The following members were also present: **Chief James Baldis**, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department, **Nicholas Boulter**, Captain, Simsbury Police Department, **Lucy Bowman**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, **Jeffrey Cochran**, CL&P Town Liaison, **Kevin Kowalski**, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department, **Burke LaClair**, Board of Education, Business Manager, **Mickey Lecours-Beck**, Director, Town of Simsbury Social Services, **Sarah Nielson**, Main Street Partnership, **Thomas Roy**, Director of Public Works, **Tony Uanino**, Chamber of Commerce, **Kevin Witkos**, CL&P and State Senator and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Michael Berry, Simsbury Fire Department, Ed LaMontagne, Executive Director, Simsbury Housing Authority, Karen Stewart, Simsbury Ambulance 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 19, 2015

Amended changes are:

Call to Order: Christopher Kelly’s title should be changed to Chair.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

- Ambulance – Ms. Karen Stewart noted that Simsbury has received a Bronze medal for participating in a program which encourages EMS services to transmit EKGs directly to the hospitals for patients experiencing a heart attack.
- Civil Preparedness – Mr. Kowalski discussed a disk from the State of Connecticut that has information regarding state mapping, access points to internet sites that will give data on flooding and much more. He noted that responders will be getting a copy of this disk.

Mr. Kowalski noted that the FM Radio station infrastructure is complete and he hopes to get the transmitter hooked up this week to start the testing. He stated that they would like to start broadcasting in June.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 21, 2015

“Subject to Approval”

Page | 2

Mr. Kowalski stated that regional dispatching is still a topic at the State Capital. State Senator Witkos explained what is happening with this bill at the Capital.

Mr. Kowalski also noted that the emergency response program with the daycare centers is moving along but at a slow pace. He noted they are going to visit the centers to see what can be done to move it along.

- Fire – Chief Baldis noted that there will be no increase in the fire tax for the new fiscal year. He noted that officers were also voted in for another term. Chief Baldis stated that it is very dry, due to the lack of rain, and there is high fire danger and noted that only permitted camp fires are allowed at this time.
- Farmington Valley Health District – No representative at meeting.
- Police – Captain Boulter noted that June is handicap parking awareness month. He stated that there will be additional information on their website and facebook page. He also noted that SCTV did a video with officer Lauren Devin and should be on at the end of May or beginning of June.
- Social Services – Ms. Lecours-Beck noted that the Community for Care will be sending out a flyer next week to all Simsbury residents to make people aware of the Community for Care and the resources that are available and on the website to access these resources.

Ms. Lecours-Beck also noted that the food closet is in desperate need of donations and asked if any group would like to help and have a food drive.

- Public Works – Mr. Roy discussed the recent public tree hearing on removing a tree that has been slated to be removed on the corner of Nimrod and West Mountain. He also noted that they are working with Eversource to look into housing emergency response crews to facilitate faster response in Simsbury. Mr. Roy noted that Public Works has helped support a number of bike events in Town.
- Board of Education – Mr. LaClair discussed the Henry James and Squadron Line projects that are almost ready to begin. He noted that there were some recent drills completed at the schools. Mr. Kowalski noted that they are working together with the Board of Education to develop a NIMS class specifically for teachers.
- Other Updates –

Mr. Kelly noted that it was requested to have Mr. Cooke compose a press release overview to residents to be prepared for potential power outages during the summer. Mr. Cooke wanted it to be acknowledged that this press release has been completed.

State Senator Witkos noted that Eversource has met with the Town of Simsbury to visit a couple of sites for staging areas for large scale events. He also discussed two Bills that are in the House which are for Firefighter cancer and PTSD. One is a House Bill and one is a State Senate Bill.

Ms. Nielson noted that the Town is working with DOT on the street signage between Simsbury Library and the old Andy’s Market. She noted that property owners will be notified that the sight lines are going to be changing and the State will be completing the stripe lines for the Pedestrian crossings.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kowalski noted that they have started issuing Certificates of Occupancy for the apartments at Dorset Crossing.

Mr. Kowalski discussed the draft hydrant ordinance and noted that a copy has gone to the Town attorney. He discussed with committee members on how snow should be handled in this ordinance and asked for their feedback on this or other items of concern in the ordinance.

Committee members discussed how to fine property owners who do not clear snow from the hydrants.

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to submit the draft hydrant ordinance to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Mr. Wilcox seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

Mr. Kowalski noted that the exercise has been postponed due to the facility and key individuals not being available. He noted that this will be rescheduled for August of September. He stated that Dyno Nobel is interested in participating in this exercise.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kowalski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lecours-Beck seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Brigham