

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 21, 2019
"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; **Nicholas Boulter**, Police Chief; **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Mike Long, Police Commission; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; Chris Peterson, Selectman; Karin Stewart, Chief Administrative Paramedic, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; and Karen Haberlin, Commission Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at Public Audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 15, 2018

The Minutes were approved as presented.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

1) Ambulance - Mr. Delehanty noted his upcoming retirement and thanked the committee for its dedication to the community. Ms. Stewart reported bags with first responders' equipment for active shooter drills are being deployed at the schools and have been well received. She noted the Friends and Family CPR program is continuing, adding that any groups in need of this should contact her. Mr. Askham thanked Mr. Delehanty for his service.

2) Board of Education - No representative attended this meeting

3) Emergency Management - Mr. Berry reported they have done well this season, noting one storm that affected power in Town. He noted there is a program to replace the four emergency management radios provided by the State. He will distribute the new ones when they are deployed.

4) Farmington Valley Health District (submitted via email) - Ms. Marquis reported the District is actively planning to conduct a full-scale mass vaccination exercise in Avon in November. From a regional perspective she reported Region 3 - the Capital Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC) received national recognition for Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a public health preparedness recognition process which assesses local health departments' planning and operational readiness to all-hazards emergency events. She added Region 3 local health departments and districts spent the past year completing a new application designed for agencies who conduct a more supportive role in emergencies, rather than direct boots on the ground response. This application assesses a region or support agency's multi-agency coordination. Region 3 was the first agency in the country to receive recognition using this

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new application. She noted Region 3 has been PPHR recognized two other times using a different criteria application. This current recognition lasts 5 years.

5) Fire - Chief Baldis noted 2019 is the 75th anniversary of the Fire District. For the Farmington Valley River Run in April the District will be providing blockade services and will be a major sponsor of the event. He noted a new boat is being delivered for Tariffville. He thanked everyone for their cooperation during the wind storm last month. Lastly, he reported the winter time hydrant situation is being monitored and communication to citizens regarding the need to clean out hydrants after a storm will be ramped up next fall.

6) Police - Chief Boulter reported phase 1 of the radio study is finished. Phase 2 has begun and will include design of the system, requests for proposals and procurement. Federal Engineering's presentation given to the BOS is available on the link on the front page of the Town website and on SCTV. He provided an update on Narcan usage by Police, noting it was used 4 times in this fiscal year. The average age is 39, 79% male. There have been 18 out of 19 saves by Police. Next, he noted Community Services Officer Lauren Devin was reassigned to the Detective Division. Her replacement is J. P. Lessard. He added P. J. Gronski was hired on December 30, 2018 and Connor Arnold will be sworn in April 2. He reported new uniforms will be coming the end of April.

a) Traffic Authority Related Items - Chief Boulter noted there will be work done on Drake Hill Bridge and a water main replacement project on Firetown Road. He noted the Department is looking at a proposed carriage tour in the downtown area, development around Ely Lane and other areas of development. He noted there have been reviews for speed bumps, stop sign installations and general traffic enforcement. There will be a shred event on April 6 from 9 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Discussion followed.

7) Public Works - Mr. Roy noted there was great coordination during the significant wind event last month. He reported the Department has been and continues to remove dead ash trees from the roadways, adding that ash trees will continue to be a hazard. Regarding snow removal of hydrants, Mr. Roy noted he would like to work with Police on the reminder initiative. He reported Public Works is partnering with area towns on regional hazardous waste collections, one on April 27 in Farmington, and two others in Simsbury in June and November. He noted the list for paving for the upcoming season will come out in early April. Discussion about wood left from tree cutting followed.

8) Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported Social Services has hired a social worker, which has allowed for the expansion and addition of services. Training for staff in CPR and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) has taken place. QPR training will be made available to the public in the fall. A new program called “Resilience Grows Here” for veterans will be offered at a monthly coffee hour on the first Monday of the month at Eno Hall. A new program of the Youth Service Bureau has been launched at the High School around the theme of “Make the Right Choice” and is being offered once a week this month. A cultural sensitivity inclusion program is being put together. She noted there was great response to the first sensory friendly program in December. Lastly, she noted many new volunteers have been recruited.

9) Other Updates - Ms. Nielsen reported the last booster has been installed by Verizon and noted the Committee helped prioritize the installment.

10) FY 19/20 Budget Update

Ms. Capriola gave an update on the FY 19/20 budget for the Committee, noting it has been challenging. The Health Insurance Fund is insolvent and premiums were set too low. She added another challenge is

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capital and debt service. She noted the Fund Balance is in a very good position. Interest rate assumptions are being looked at. The Parks and Recreation Fund continues to be a challenge. Based on those challenges, she noted the Operating Budget is a level-services budget, with the exception of the addition of an accountant position. She invited Committee members to the Public Hearing on April 2. Mr. Askham noted the challenges as well and spoke about the increase in population and how that affects calls for services. Ms. Capriola spoke about the Governor’s proposed budget and its potential effects on the Town. Discussion followed on school regionalization, the bear hunt bill and motor vehicle thefts.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Baldis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 A.M. Mr. Wilcox seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk