

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 20, 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; **Kevin Kowalski**, Fire Marshal, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Burke LaClair**, Business Manager, Board of Education; **Karin Stewart**, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Michael Berry, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Mike Long, Police Commission; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nurses 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 March 21, 2019

The Minutes were approved as presented.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

1) Ambulance - Ms. Stewart reported the Friends and Family CPR courses with Granby are finished. She added this provides good public awareness and they plan to continue the program on their own beyond the Rotary grant. She noted staffing is up and more volunteers are applying.

2) Board of Education - Mr. LaClair reported they have started interviewing for the new Director of Security and Safety position and thanked the Police for their part in that. He noted there are a number of improvement projects regarding safety and security going on this summer. Central School and Squadron Line will have new front vestibules with more security, as well as, the High School. He reported upgrades to the lock software have been made over the past six months.

3) Emergency Management - Mr. Kowalski reported there have been no major storms so far. He noted they have been working with McLean Home on their tactical response plan. Mr. Berry noted he will be taking two classes, Executive Emergency Management and the Master Planner Class, at the National Fire Academy. Mr. Kowalski noted he intends to retire after the first of the year and has been planning for the future with Ms. Capriola and Mr. Wilcox.

4) Farmington Valley Health District

Mr. Askham reported the FVHD came to a BOS meeting and educated members about why they have increased their budget and spoke about the core services, and unfunded mandates from the State. He added the mission of the Health District was restated about eight years ago. Ms. Scheetz noted she is part of a community assessment project with the Health District which will look at the current health needs

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and risks of the community and developing a strategic plan for the next four years. Ms. Capriola noted there are ten different areas in which the Health District should be providing service. She reported the new statutory requirements to provide services is a challenge for health districts.

5) Fire - Chief Baldis reported it has been a busy period and noted the recent significant mountain rescue. He remarked it was a great rescue recovery by all of the emergency services involved. It was an hour and ten minutes long recovery done by foot and by using a rope hauling system. Mr. Kowalski added the technology and training made this lift much faster. Chief Baldis expressed thanks for the financial support to get equipment, noting the new truck was used. He added they continue to focus on additional training. He noted the Fire Service will be involved in a number of standbys, including the concert series and circus coming up. Lastly, he noted there will be a BBQ Chicken Dinner in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Fire Company and the Fire District. More information about tickets is available on the website.

6) Police - Chief Boulter also thanked those involved for their assistance with the mountain rescue and noted there will be an investigation. He reported P.J. Gronski will be graduating from the Academy the end of this month and will be working starting between June 27-29. He noted there will be one more graduate at the end of September. He noted they have been working on the uniform change and sizing has been off. There will be a short video on why there is a uniform change and it is being led by Brad Chase. He noted the safe biking campaign which gives out tickets for free ice cream to kids wearing helmets. He reported on Narcan usage by Police for this fiscal year at 4, down from 10 last year. He reported motor vehicle thefts are also down at 1 so far this year. He noted Jeremy Cormier has elected to come out of the School Resource Officer position and is moving to the midnight shift. Laurel Harrington, who shadowed Mr. Cormier for the last three weeks of school, is going into the school position.

a) Traffic Authority Related Items - Chief Boulter noted they are still working on Ely Lane becoming a one-way road. Speed, stop signs, speed changes and reckless driving complaints are being addressed through enforcement education and numerous traffic surveys. Discussion followed about traffic calming. Mr. Roy noted the lane striping that is to be done this year will be at 11 feet versus the 12 feet done previously, which will change driver behavior. Further discussion followed about speed, cut-through roads and high-speed bicyclists.

7) Public Works - Mr. Roy noted there are constant requests for more signage. In the Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan it was reported there are a lot of signs. He noted education needs to be done. He noted a significant concern about bicyclist safety at the entrance to Ensign Bickford, adding two separate studies have been done for that area. He reported they will be meeting with EB in July to see what can be done. He spoke about the Community Connectivity Grant Program which will provide rectangular flashing beacons at four trail crossings and which will provide full ADA-compliant signals at two pedestrian heads along Route 10.

8) Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported they have been working with the FVHD on the Community Health Assessment. She also spoke about the Click it for an Ice Cream Ticket campaign with the Police. She reported the Community Forum planned with Community for Care and the BOE in May had over one hundred people participate and had a cross section of the community as audience members. It was moderated by a presenter from the Department of Justice. Issues that were identified will be looked at and the group will come back together to work on solutions. She also noted they are partnering with FVHD to offer a new veterans' coffee hour being held the first Monday of the month featuring different speakers.

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9) Bear Population and Referral - Ms. Capriola noted the bear population issue has been coming up quite frequently in the last year or so. She reported an updated analysis has been done, which shows a spike in nuisance bear activity, adding that bears have entered someone's home four times last year. She noted she met with DEEP officials last October, adding there is a 10-15% increase in the bear population in CT per year and the problem will keep growing. She noted DEEP has been advocating for policy changes at the State level for some time, resources are limited, and they would like to raise awareness. It was noted this is a west-of-the-river problem, which makes the problem hard to understand for those not in our area. Mr. Askham noted a concerted education campaign is the best route. Discussion followed about hunting, relocation, police response, other wildlife, what other towns are doing and locking trash barrels.

MOTION: Mr. Kowalski made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the community be educated about not feeding wildlife and other preventative measures in regard to bears and other wild animals. Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

10) Other Updates - Ms. Capriola reported the Town Budget passed about two to one, noting all three budgets passed, as well as, the capital project of the roof replacement at the High School. They are very busy now with labor relations, collective bargaining and economic development work.

Ms. Nielsen thanked the Fire Department and Mr. Kowalski for their assistance regarding the Fitzgerald's construction.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 A.M. Mr. Kowlaski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk