

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 19, 2019  
"APPROVED"**

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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; Melissa Marquis, FVHD Public Health Emergency Specialist; Mark Massaro, Community Relations Specialist, Eversource; Chris Peterson, Board of Selectmen; 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 June 20, 2019**

The Minutes were approved as presented.

**UPDATES AND REPORTS**

**1) Ambulance** - Ms. Stewart reported they have been covering some stand-by for various organizations in Town, including the Latimer Lane 5K and MS Walk. She noted Car 17 has already exceeded the call volume from last year. It is running Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**2) Emergency Management**

**a) Hurricane and Severe Weather Preparedness Considerations**

Mr. Berry referenced the Severe Weather and Hurricane Preparedness Considerations for Municipalities attachment in the meeting packet. He noted the Emergency Operations Plan is due for its bi-annual update. There have been some changes in administration and he asked Committee members to review their sections and update it with information they want included. Regarding communications he noted they are in excellent shape. He added that he will get all updates and phone numbers from Mr. Kowalski in case he is unavailable. He will also be working with all the department heads. He will be working with the Police Department to come up with a communication plan and routine testing to ensure communication is tested on a routine basis for the in-Town radio system and interoperability to make sure the Town is up to date with the State. Chief Baldis reported the Town tests monthly for 8CALL90. Mr. Berry updated the Committee on his classwork, noting he was accepted into both classes at the National Fire Academy. He will be there for 6 different weeks and will be done with the Master Planner class by April and the Executive Class by the start of 2021. He noted there is a capstone project in which he will complete a full-scale exercise as part of the Master Planner class. Mr. Kowalski noted some public relations will need to be done for residents of the new apartments. Mr. Peterson suggested an information

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kit be available for property owners to hand out to residents. Discussion followed about the new senior living building, the Tower Reservoir Dam Project tabletop exercise, Everbridge, CT Alert, WSIM and residents living in apartments.

#### **b) Eversource Response Time to Electrical Incident at the Commons**

Mr. Kowalski reported on the response to a call at the Simsbury Commons for a trouble alarm. Mr. Kowalski summarized what happened and introduced Mark Massaro, Community Relations Specialist at Eversource, the new company representative for the Town of Simsbury. Discussion followed regarding concern about the lack of response. Mr. Massaro spoke about the situation and noted there is a training DVD he can provide for the Committee. Mr. Peterson asked that Mr. Massaro report back to the Committee on what happened and why. It was agreed Mr. Massaro will provide an update at the next meeting. Discussion about phase protection followed.

**3) Fire** - Chief Baldis reported there was a basement fire on Evans Drive caused by an electrical issue. He noted there was good entry and stop of the situation. He thanked some of the resources that were used, including the Avon Fire Department, Social Services, the Animal Control Officer, and the Red Cross. Discussion following regarding a concerned neighbor's call about the residents returning to the home and what can or cannot be done about a situation like this.

**4) Police** - Chief Boulter reported there have been 9 cars stolen this year, all unlocked with keys in them. In 2018 there were 16 cars stolen. He added these thefts can roll into pursuits with people getting killed and that this needs to be prevented from happening. He noted crimes are being committed with these cars; some have bullet holes in them. He added if there is a valid reason to stop a car, the Police will. Items such as laptops and credit cards are being taken from unlocked cars as well. He noted an abandoned car in front of Town Hall and another recovered in Plainville. This is happening mostly in the southern part of Town. He noted cars need to be locked. October 26 is Drug Take Back Day during which unused medicines can be dropped off at the Police Station. He reported the uniforms have been changed and everyone is happy with them. He also noted they are in the process of changing over cruisers to all dark gray.

#### **a) Traffic Authority Related Items**

Chief Boulter reported there are several uncontrolled stops, noting one at Phelpscredit Road and Barry Lane. At Route 185 and East Weatogue Street there is a missing Yield sign which is creating an opportunity for mistakes. The Department is responding to a lot of requests for speed and traffic enforcement. Discussion about staffing vacancies followed.

**5) Public Works** - Mr. Roy reported Public Works and the DOT have just upgraded some crosswalk crossing signs. He added they have just wrapped up a very full season of paving and did more road closures as part of that. He noted Firetown Road will be paved next year and new sidewalks will be put in as well.

**6) Board of Education** - Mr. LaClair thanked Mr. Roy for his help coordinating work being done by Aquarion which would affect the High School. He reported there has been a lot of progress on security projects, including the completed vestibule at Central School. He noted the High School vestibule will be worked on next. He reported bollards were installed at the schools over the summer. Mark Critz, who retired from the Police Department, has been hired as the first Director of Safety and Security. Lastly, he reported there will be a training today on the Sandy Hook Promise Say Something app, which promotes an anonymous reporting of concerns people may have.

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**7) Farmington Valley Health District** - Ms. Marquis reported they are in the process of planning a mass vaccination full-scale exercise in November on Election Day at Thompson Brook School in Avon. Seasonal flu shots will be provided. She noted it will be a real event and an exercise all in one. Vaccinations will be provided for the Fire Department as first responders and all of the school staff. She is expecting about 400 individuals to come through over a 4-hour period and added it will be a good test of their plans. Lastly, she noted they have been working with McLean Nursing Home, which is interested in signing on as a closed-pod partner. She provided an update from FVHD Director Jennifer Kertanis noting a small grant was received from DPH to focus on the opioid epidemic. A video has been produced which focuses on different prevention messages, including 'It can happen anywhere, so have the conversation,' 'Don't be part of the problem and properly dispose of unused medications,' and 'Make the call.' Resource cards have been developed for first responders to distribute after responding to an overdose, for which she thanked Chief Boulter for his help creating. Ms. Marquis added the FVHD has been working with community partners doing Narcan training and education about opioid abuse, as well as, QPR training. Mr. Kowalski noted the Fire Department is still maintaining a large drug cache provided by the CDC for response to a biological event.

**8) Ordinance to Prohibit the Public from Intentionally Feeding Wildlife and Possible Sub-Committee/Work Group** - Mr. Askham suggested a subcommittee work on drafting an ordinance if an ordinance is in line. He noted this now includes concern about coyotes in addition to bears and gave background on the topic of an ordinance. He noted they will be talking to DEEP about options. He invited Committee members to help draft language to be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting. Brief discussion followed about enforcement.

**9) Social Services** - Ms. Formanek reported there will be a flu shot clinic at the Senior Center. They continue to work with the FVHD on a community health assessment and the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Kowalski noted this is the time of year when there is an increasing number of fires in back yards. He added campfires are exempt from any permit process but the Town offers a permit process for campfires and bonfires. He added there is no law against campfires.

**10) Other Updates** - There were no other updates.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 A.M. Mr. Kowlaski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin  
Commission Clerk