

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 15, 2018
“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; **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Kevin Kowalski**, Deputy Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Burke LaClair**, BOE Business Manager; **Melissa Marquis**, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, FVHD; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Jeff Cochran, Eversource Town Liaison/Legal; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; Chris Peterson, Selectman; Nancy Scheetz, Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association; Kevin Witkos, CT State Senator; and Karen Haberlin, Commission Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at Public Audience.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 20, 2018

The Minutes were approved as presented.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance - Mr. Delehanty reported CPR training has begun. Thirty-one people have been trained and eighty more people are scheduled so far. The schedule can be accessed at Simsbury EMS on Facebook. He noted the automated CPR equipment was received through a FEMA grant.

Board of Education - Mr. LaClair reported the security window film installation on the first floor of all schools has been completed. He noted they were glad to be a part of the emergency response exercise at the High School.

Emergency Management - Mr. Kowalski inquired about the status of the Verizon antenna. Ms. Nielsen reported it is on schedule for January 2019. He also inquired whether there are identification markers on the Rails to Trails Greenway. General consensus was that there are markers, although they may need updating. It was agreed this is something to discuss further.

Farmington Valley Health District - Ms. Marquis reported a full-scale vaccination exercise will need to be completed over the next year or so. It will take place in Avon and she will keep the Committee updated on this.

Fire - Chief Baldis noted the Department has been busy. Stand-by crews for the Fly-In were provided. They had a well-attended Annual Open House in October and school visits were made. The Torchlight Parade and fireworks will also have stand-by crews.

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Police - Chief Boulter reported the radio system study is well under way. More information on that is forthcoming. He provided an update on opioid overdoses, noting Narcan was used three times recently for heroin overdoses by the same individual. This fiscal year they have had four overdoses and four saves with Narcan. Fiscal year 2018 there were ten; 2017 had three; and 2016 had two. The average age is thirty-nine, 79% male and 21% female. Since the program began in 2015 there have been eighteen out of nineteen saves. In addition, he reported he has created a local traffic authority group to discuss areas including traffic control signals and bicycle and pedestrian issues. Discussion ensued. Lastly, Chief Boulter reported a large group of Town officials met with DEEP to discuss concerns about the large increase in calls about bears. He noted as of mid-October there were 525 calls as compared to 270 at that time last year. Discussion followed.

Other Updates - Senator Witkos gave an Eversource update, noting the new outage map is available at outagemap.eversource.com. He added drones are now being used for pole inspections, which has expedited them. On the Senate side, Senator Witkos reported he has put together a working policy group for suicide addiction and depression called SAD. Lastly, he reported a tri-town group is being created to work on land preservation in the Heublein Tower area.

Public Works - Mr. Roy noted preparation for tonight’s snowstorm is underway. He reported the culvert at the intersection of Routes 189 and 315 is being actively worked on. Referencing the Rails to Trails Greenway, he noted stenciled trail markers were created by an Eagle Scout several years ago and it would be a good idea to refresh them next spring. Lastly, he noted a grant was just received from DOT to do trail improvements at seven of the most-used crossings next spring.

Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported Social Services is back at Eno Hall since the construction is completed. There is now a Tuesday cafe style lunch being offered from 12:00 P.M. to 12:45 P.M. at the Senior Center. Soup and sandwiches are sold for \$2 each and all are welcome. She also welcomed their new community social worker, Kristen. She noted programming is being planned on opioid addiction and suicidality, including Question, Persuade, Respond (QPR) training on January 16 and CPR training on January 15.

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

Mr. Kowalski gave an overview on the tactical response exercise that took place October 24 at Simsbury High School. He thanked the BOE and the High School for their assistance, noting cooperation was tremendous between departments (Ambulance, Fire, Police) and learning was excellent. 250 people were a part of it. An after-action public document will be submitted. There was discussion about how it went and what areas may need to be addressed. There was agreement that communication needs to be a high priority. Mr. Kowalski showed a two-minute video made during the exercise and noted a training video is being put together. Mr. Askham thanked those involved for participating.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham adjourned the meeting at 8:25 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk