

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; **Lucy Bowman**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Tom Cooke**, Director of Administrative Services; **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Burke LaClair**, Business Manager, Board of Education; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Melissa Appleby, Deputy Director of Administrative Services; Michael Berry, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Nick Boulter, Captain, Simsbury Police Department; Jeff Cochran, Eversource Town Liaison/Legal; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Ed LaMontagne, Executive Director, Housing Authority; Melissa Marquis, FVHD Public Health Emergency Specialist; Diana Moody, Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Sarah Nielsen, Simsbury Main Street Partnership; 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, 2017

The Minutes were approved as presented.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance - Mr. Delehanty reported they started scheduling the second ambulance five days a week starting October 1st. There have been 108 calls year-to-date, 26 in October, which is significant. Mr. Askham noted the presentation made to the Board of Selectmen by Mr. Delehanty and Ms. Appleby on Car 17 and the importance that it be properly funded to be as responsive as possible.

Board of Education - Mr. LaClair reported the first Board of Education meeting was this week. One item he noted was looking at a district-wide school safety and security funding request with assistance from the Police Department. It would encompass improving and replacing some of the aging infrastructure including locking, fob systems, software, hardware and cameras. He also noted there will be a training session today for students on the addition of seat belts on the new school buses.

Civil Preparedness - Mr. Berry noted the radio station has been working very well and they have started broadcasting Simsbury football games in conjunction with the school system.

Farmington Valley Health District - Ms. Marquis reported FVHD is engaging in a process currently with the other health departments within Region 3 to gain recognition again for being public health ready. The application goes in August of 2018, so it will be a year-long process.

Fire - Chief Baldis reported things have been fairly quiet on the emergency side. He mentioned the loss of Deputy Fire Chief Mike Jepeal, who passed away in September. Fire prevention programs were run at all of the elementary schools, St. Mary's School and some of the day care centers as well. An open house was held Columbus Day weekend. The Department was invited to observe a disaster drill at McClean Home as part of a State-wide healthcare disaster program. This Friday at 4:00 P.M. a new fire truck playscape will be dedicated at Rotary Park. He also noted the Fire Department's participation in the upcoming Simsbury Celebrates parade.

Police - Captain Boulter noted the Department received their State accreditation. He reported on the Narcan/Naloxone use for the year. In 2016 it was used four times and in 2017 it was used three times. They are seeing the same drugs, mostly heroin. Three last year were illegal prescription drugs and this year, it was all heroin. They are continuing to stock the cruisers with Narcan/Naloxone thanks to Social Services funding. They are continuing to train officers on the use of it.

Public Works - Mr. Roy noted there will be four dump trucks positioned at either end of Iron Horse Boulevard and Route 10 during Simsbury Celebrates to be used as immovable barricades. They have also been working on a pedestrian and bicycle master plan. There is currently an online survey on the topic. One of the most noted concerns thus far is safety. Other issues include lighting, dogs, traffic laws and better markers on the trails.

Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported the energy assistance season has begun. There are currently three to six households being approved each day. Oil deliveries start today. They are preparing for their holiday programs. Next Wednesday one hundred chickens from Fitzgerald's will be distributed, as well as, squash, green beans and apple cider. They are also getting ready for the holiday toy gift card program for children. She noted they are keeping an eye on the potential impact of the changes in the new State budget. The Renter's Rebate and Medicare Savings Program are both of concern.

Other Updates - Mr. LaMontagne reported the Housing Authority received a small cities grant in the amount of \$750,000. Part of that money will be used to replace the generator at the Virginia Connelly Residence, which is used as a shelter for the Town in emergencies. They are also installing a new underground storage tank.

Ms. Nielsen updated the Committee on the cell phone tower and thanked the Town for moving so quickly on this. Verizon will be putting in a booster signal near Maple Tree Cafe in 2018.

Mr. Askham reported an offer will be made this evening for the Town's first Town Manager. He noted that an interim plan is in place to ensure continuity of leadership until the start date.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2017 Local EMS Plan

Ms. Appleby gave a general overview of the document she put together, noting it was a joint effort between the Fire District, Police and EMS. The document is extensive and has information on each service provider. It lays out performance standards, including response times and goals. It has been submitted to DPH and has been preliminarily approved. She asked this committee to look at it for final approval before it is submitted. Mr. Delehanty added that the document explains and demonstrates to the State what the Town does. It updates a previous document.

MOTION: Mr. Askham asked for a motion to endorse the 2017 Local EMS Plan. Mr. Berry made the motion. Chief Baldis seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve Meeting Schedule for 2018

MOTION: Mr. Askham asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Roy made the motion. Mr. Delehanty seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Chief Baldis made the Committee aware that the developer of Talcott Ridge, at 200 Hopmeadow Street, has requested access for this community to get to the Rails for Trails across the street. The area includes the Weatogue Fire House training facility. The Fire District had a meeting about this and there is concern on several fronts because it is a very active training area. The District responded back to the developer with some alternative locations for access. President Wilcox added that their vote is that the proposed areas for access are not appropriate in the name of safety. There was general discussion in agreement with President Wilcox.

MOTION: Mr. Delehanty made a motion to not have Rails for Trails access near the training facility. Chief Baldis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Diana Moody of the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee spoke to the Committee about the possibility of changing the sidewalk ordinance because people are too afraid to use the road. She reminded the Committee that Simsbury is a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community. Discussion ensued. It was decided that Ms. Moody will come back to the Committee with specifics.

4. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

There was no exercise discussed at this meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham adjourned the meeting at 7:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk