

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 19, 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 7:05 A.M. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Present were: **James Baldis**, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Mark Critz**, Director of Safety & Security, BOE; **Kevin Kowalski**, Fire Marshal, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Karin Stewart**, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Tom Sheehan**, Lieutenant, Simsbury Police; **Neil Sullivan**, Director of Personnel, Simsbury Schools; **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; Mark Massaro, Community Relations Specialist, Eversource; 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 September 19, 2019

The Minutes were approved as presented.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

- 1) Board of Education** - Mr. Sullivan introduced Mark Critz, Director of Safety & Security, a new position. He noted Liz Maher, another former Simsbury Police officer, has been hired as Security at HJMS. Her position is unarmed and is a new position at that school. In addition, security at the high school has been expanded to include a contracted security company to provide expanded second shift coverage from 2:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. He noted one of their goals is to create a double-entry system into each of the schools. Central School has that completed and the High School is in process now with a dedicated security officer there. HJMS and Squadron Line will be next to have this system installed, followed by Latimer Lane, Tariffville and Tootin Hills. Mr. Critz is looking at vendors for panic alarm systems as part of remaining security improvement dollars.
- 2) Ambulance** - Ms. Stewart took a moment to note all of the services provided by the Association and to assure the Subcommittee and the BOS that they are doing everything possible to meet the requirements of the town in terms of ambulance service. She noted while it is a volunteer organization, it is 90% paid at this point. There are three ambulances. Staffing coverage needs are being analyzed to ensure they are adequate. She added the safety of the ambulances is a priority, noting improvements being made and planning being done for the future. She reported there is an EMT class running. Lastly, she noted the Association was given a new fly car by PDS Construction and Mitchell.
- 3) Emergency Management**
 - a) Update from Eversource regarding the electrical incident at the Commons

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Mr. Kowalski reported there have been three events during which Eversource's response time has taken hours and noted not having a service center in close proximity has made a difference. He gave examples of these events. He noted they are working on scheduling a meeting with Eversource. Mr. Berry noted they continue to try to schedule the State annual drill but it has been postponed due to weather. He added this year's focus is cybersecurity. Discussion about cyber attacks followed.

4) Fire - Chief Baldis reported on the chimney fire at the 1820 House during the Torchlight Parade. He formally thanked Police, Town Highway, emergency responders and other towns for their assistance in protecting citizens. He reported there were no injuries and there was no significant damage to the building. Chief Baldis reported Emergency 1 will have a new piece of apparatus, a quint, which is an engine with a ladder on top of it. Ladder 11 and Engine 8 will be retired and combined into one piece to be located in the Weatogue Station. Cold weather operations have begun and he noted a need to push the hydrant clearing program.

5) Police - Mr. Kowalski reported they are working with the Police Department on a radio system which will include Emergency Management, Highway, BOE, Fire, Buses, Police and Ambulance. He commended the Police Department for spearheading this effort.

a) Traffic Authority Related Items - none reported

b) Crosswalk Safety - Lieutenant Tom Sheehan reported the crosswalk event out front of Town Hall is still under investigation but close to being resolved. He added they are working with the State on ways to make all the crosswalks safer.

Lieutenant Sheehan noted Cory Thomas, a new officer, has been hired and will begin on December 30. Discussion on crosswalk safety followed. Driver behavior challenges, illumination, and bicycles and people not stopping at intersections were discussed.

6) Public Works - Mr. Roy reported the generators at Eno and the Library have been installed and will be running by the end of the month. (Mr. Massaro joined the meeting at this time.) Mr. Roy noted an RFP for disaster management has just been issued. He referenced the recent three-day storm and noted they have been reviewing their processes and have been sending out positive messages.

7) Farmington Valley Health District - No representative attended this meeting.

8) Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported there is more intensity with clients and it is a busy season. She reported they had a great Thanksgiving Cheese Day and a Christmas Cheese Day. She added new people are coming on board on a regular basis for financial and food assistance. They had their biggest toy distribution ever with 39 families. Lastly, she noted a cold weather message will be activated today.

9) Other Updates - Ms. Capriola reported work is being done in the vault to remove flammable carpet and electrical material. In the Planning Office the counter will be replaced, which will improve ADA accessibility and security.

Mr. Massaro provided a brief update from Eversource noting a discussion will be scheduled for the first week of January and will include the Response Organization Manager, (who is a Simsbury resident), and the System Operations Center Manager. Discussion followed about response times.

10) Work Group to Review and Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife - Mr. Askham referenced the DRAFT Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife included in the

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meeting packet and highlighted key pieces of that. He noted the focus at this point is on bears, coyotes, fisher cats and bobcats. He asked that comments be emailed to the group. It will then be brought to the Wildlife Subcommittee and then back to this committee for approval. There was discussion about the statute for false alarm fees. Further discussion about enforcement followed.

11) 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule - There was agreement that the group will meet four times per year at 7:00 A.M. per the meeting schedule in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Mr. Baldis made a motion to accept the 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule. Mr. Kowalski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sheetz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 A.M. Mr. Kowlaski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk