

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Kelly called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2016 in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. The following members were also present: **Lucy Bowman**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, **Jeff Cochran**, Eversource, **Michael Delehanty**, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, **Kevin Kowalski**, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department, **Burke LaClair**, Board of Education, Business Manager, **Mickey Lecours-Beck**, Director, Town of Simsbury Social Services, **Sarah Nielson**, Simsbury Main Street Partnership, **Thomas Roy**, Director of Public Works, **Fred Sifodaskalakis**, Lieutenant, Simsbury Police Department, **Tony Uanino**, Chamber of Commerce, **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District and **Kevin Witkos**, State Senator and Eversource. Also in attendance were Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nursing Association and Leslie Brigham, Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at Public Audience.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approve Minutes from Regular Meeting on March 17, 2016

Changes to the minutes are:

Page 2, Civil Preparedness: Second sentence remove “that” from sentence and change WFIM to WSIM to read “He also stated that WSIM will be playing Irish tunes all day at 103.5 FM.”

Page 2, Public Works: Add “eye” to the first sentence to read “Mr. Roy discussed an area of erosion in the Hazel Meadow area and that they are keeping an eye on it every day.”

Minutes were approved as amended.

2. UPDATES AND REPORTS

- **Ambulance** – Mr. Delehanty distributed a handout to committee members and discussed the impact of the increased volume of calls for the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance. He noted steps that have been taken:
 - Hired three new Paramedics
 - May hire additional paramedics
 - Contracted with an agency to provide weekday EMTs
 - Obtained authorization to add a third ambulance

Mr. Delehanty discussed the revenue for the second ambulance at the current call volume and stated that the volume on weekends has increased. He noted the reason for the increased demand attributed to the following:

- New England Urgent Care – 239 calls since opened
- 100 Sarah Lane – 130 calls since opened
- 1 West Street – 128 calls since opened
- 100 Casterbridge Crossing – 48 aided calls since 9/2015

Mr. Delehanty reminded members of the development in Powder Forest with the number of homes, townhouses and the assisted living facility. He also noted upcoming high impact developments include the residential/commercial development in the south end of town and potential commercial development in the north end.

Mr. Delehanty stated that he believes the time has come to consider the need for the Town to subsidize SVAA in the near and long term. He noted that they have been utilizing savings to cover the added expense.

Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis supported Mr. Delehanty on the above number of calls and noted that they are increasing.

Mr. Kowalski questioned what the standard is in community investment for EMS and noted his support from the Town to subsidize. Mr. Delehanty discussed the budget for this investment in other communities with committee members. Mr. Kowalski discussed possible Grant money available.

Ms. Sheetz, Visiting Nursing Association, discussed some of their services to Mr. Delehanty on assisting in back-up support to residents.

Mr. Kelly recommended Mr. Delehanty scheduling a meeting with the First Selectman’s office to discuss future funding.

- **Board of Education** –Mr. LaClair did not discuss anything at this meeting.
- **Civil Preparedness** –Mr. Kowalski reported that WSIM is up and running and they have received a lot of positive feedback. He noted that music is playing 24 hours a day and they have made a substantial improvement to the final component of the emergency alerting system.

Mr. Kowalski stated that they now have a remote system that will enable them to now do remote editing. He reported that they are looking at some equipment to set up for a remote broadcasting system at the high school for games, including football.

Mr. Kowalski updated commission members on the day care initiative for emergency management. He stated they are starting to make day care visits in developing the program.

- **Fire** – Mr. Kowalski reported that Chief Baldis is currently taking a four day course at the firehouse on the new breathing apparatus the department received. He noted that they are now a factory level

maintenance division, which will save them substantially and save time in sending out the breathing apparatus.

Mr. Kowalski noted that they have replaced all their portable radios for every individual. He reported that they will have a new learning system coming in on Friday and will be upgrading all the alerting systems for the volunteers.

Mr. Kowalski discussed the back-up assistance given to the town of East Granby in a time of need with the loss of their Fire Captain.

- **Farmington Valley Health District** –Jennifer Kertanis was not in attendance at this meeting.
- **Police** – Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis reported that the 911 system was down last Friday for approximately 10 to 15 minutes for the entire State. He explained this was due to an update to the system.

Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis stated that they have purchased two new pedestrian crossing signs to be placed in front of Town Hall.

- **Social Services** – Ms. Lecours-Beck reported that the cooling centers are now open. She also noted that Family Day was last Tuesday and thanked the police and fire department for sending their staff and vehicles.
- **Public Works** – Mr. Roy was happy to report that they have been fortunate that they have not been hit with any big thunder storms. He discussed replacing the lock on the fence behind the boat house.
- **Other Updates** – Senator Witkos reported that it has been approved for Eversource to close their work center at the end of August. He also discussed a letter he sent to the Bonding Commission on the budget reductions regarding the refurbishment of Fire School building.

Mr. Kowalski voiced his concern to Senator Witkos regarding the fire training budget reduction to Senator Witkos. He noted that they have been at \$100,000 range for the regional schools and have now been cut down to \$20,000.

Senator Witkos noted that they are not back in session until November and explained how the State budget will affect the fire training budget.

3. EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

a) Final Report for Large Scale Exercise

Mr. Kowalski discussed the meeting they had with the Core Response groups and went over the information needed for the Emergency Operation Plan. He shared an aerial view, from a drone, of what occurred on The Hartford property in April and discussed the operation. He noted that they had over 200 people participating in this plan exercise and thanked everyone who responded to this.

Mr. Delehanty, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance, Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis, Simsbury Police Department and Mr. Roy, Public Works, explained their involvement in the Emergency Operation Plan exercise on the Hartford property.

Mr. Kowalski reported that he met with the First Selectman, Lisa Heavner, regarding a class on how to work with the media. He stated that they are looking to having a two hour media response class, as well as message development class, towards the end of August.

Senator Witkos recommended a designated public information officer to control what is going out to the media. Mr. Kowalski agreed with his suggestion.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Witkos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Brigham
Clerk