

Public Safety Subcommittee
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 8:00 A.M.
Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream

Mr. Askham called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 8:00 A.M. via Zoom Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream.

Present were:

James Baldis, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Michael Berry**, Emergency Management Director; **Nicholas Boulter**, Chief of Police; **Kristen Formanek**, Director of Community & Social Services; **Tom Fitzgerald**, Acting Deputy Town Manager; **Melissa Marquis**, Farmington Valley Health District; **Mark Massaro**, Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist, Eversource; **Tom Roy**, Director of Public Works; **Nancy Scheetz**, CEO Visiting Nurses Association; **Karin Stewart**, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Neil Sullivan**, Director of Personnel, Simsbury Schools; **Patrick Tourville**, Fire Marshall, and **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District

Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping Items:

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective March 16, 2023, to accept the minutes from December 15, 2022 with minor administrative adjustments. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

1) Farmington Valley Health District

Ms. Marquis reported that they completed the After Actions Report from their COVID operations and are updating their emergency response plans accordingly. She added they have made some changes to their newly titled Emerging Infectious Disease Responses Plan. Training and exercises will follow in the coming year or so.

Ms. Kertanis asked the public to review the Community Health Assessment report as they are looking for input on priorities and workgroups.

2) Town Manager's Office

No Update.

3) Emergency Management

Mr. Berry reported on the emergency events and their partnership with Eversource. He said things went very well for the past storm. They are looking to get back into exercises and tabletops, including a town wide drill and their emergency operations plan. He asked the public to stay vigilant and safe.

4) Police

Chief Boulter thanked the teams for their response during the latest storms and regularly handling calls to Eversource has been a tremendous success. He gave a heads up that should be expecting at least one of their new hybrid cruisers in the next two weeks and over the next 2-3 months they should be expecting the other three vehicles which were ordered last year.

He said a proposal has been approved for the crosswalk improvement project which has been worked on by many departments for well over a year. This went to the Board of Selectman's office through the Town Manager's office and reflected improvements in key locations throughout town. He reported they will be moving forward with the funding to address various locations including West Street at Grist Mill Road.

5) Ambulance

Ms. Stewart reported they are expecting a delivery of their new remounted ambulance in the next couple of weeks and said the first one is working out well and has confidence to expect the same out of this one. She said they have had very productive discussions with the Police Dispatch and their sponsor hospital St. Francis to update the EMD system.

Ms. Stewart reported the call volume numbers adding that for 2022 they had 2787 calls that came into the police dispatch which was an increase of over 250 from 2021. Of those calls CVA responded to 2,438 calls for medical help which is an increase of 292 calls. She reported 1,596 patients were transported in 2022 which was an increase of 169 on last year. The difference between the dispatches and the transports was 842 calls, which were either cancelled while vehicle was enroute or due to patient refusal on arrival, and added the majority of those calls are not billable. She reported call volume for 2023 is high at 516 compared to 420 at the same time last year.

6) Fire

Mr. Tourville spoke about change of clocks change of battery. He mentioned an increase in site plans and construction. He said they are working with the other town agencies on the fall prevention initiative.

Mr. Wilcox spoke about the budget process and the challenges associated with delivery times and inflation costs including that of the fire apparatus which has increased upwards of 35% to 40%. He mentioned they have three pieces of apparatus which is on their master 20-year plan to be replaced. He said they had a budget workshop are looking to lower the mill rate and they should have preliminary budget on their website by the middle of next week.

Chief Baldis spoke about the team engagement in response to the recent storm. He mentioned they saw an increase in low hanging wires and Eversource was response to their call. He added that the fire department are looking into fires associated with new electric vehicles and to raise awareness to the public on the risks and what to do if anything happens.

7) Board of Education

Mr. Sullivan spoke about the different traffic patterns that will need to be in place at Latimar Lane due to construction and asked for the public's cooperation. Mr. Askham added that parents should use the buses to reduce the traffic if possible. Mr. Sullivan spoke about the bleachers at

the public High School that are currently down for replacement. He said they should be replaced by the Fall. He added that many of the security camera will be replaced over the Summer assuming the passing of the budget.

8) Public Works and Engineering

Mr. Roy spoke about the recent storm saying it was a busy few hours but all went well. He mentioned the household hazardous waste collection event and asked the public to bring their old equipment and chemicals. He mentioned their engineering department will be taking over the crosswalk improvement project and asked the public for their patience as they work through this process.

9) Social Services

Ms. Formanek spoke about the increase in call volume and the challenges of reaching out to everyone who calls. She spoke about the fall prevention program and is looking forward to receiving training for staff so they can further help the community. She asked the public to be on the lookout for many Spring programs through their Youth Service Bureau. They are getting ready to end their energy assistance season and urged anyone who still needs help to reach out. She added they will be rolling out their Renters Rebate program which will be starting soon.

10) VNA

No Report

11) Main Street Partnership

Ms. Neilson was not present, but her report was read by Mr. Askham. It included they are continuing to work on the shoplifting issue, and they have reached out to both the State elected officials on this topic. They are working with PAC on improving relationships with small businesses that are impacted by parking at seasonal events.

12) Eversource

Mr. Massaro reported on the improvements made in their communications system since the last storm and is happy they are working better as evident during the past storm. He spoke about the time it takes to make certain repairs and was happy they had the resources available and were able to take care of things quickly. He spoke about the Eversource assistance programs and energy efficiency information and gave the public information on where to find help and tips.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Lynott
Commission Clerk