



HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lewis-Chang
Councilwoman Greenberg- **Absent**
Councilwoman Jones
Police Chief Morrillo
Captain Acevedo
SORS Chief Rothstein
Ms. Davenport, Health Officer
Mr. Egelberg, OEM Coordinator
Mr. Battaglia, Village Engineer- **Absent**
Mr. Goduco, Engineer Representative
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

October 8, 2024

All members present approved the October 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

In light of the passing of Melanie Troncone, a beloved resident and longtime South Orange Rescue Squad member, Councilwoman Lewis- Chang dedicated this meeting in her honor.

Report Summary & Questions, Follow Up and New Items

Health Department Report

Ms. Davenport reported on the following items:

- December 18th, The Village Is partnering with Zoofall at the Turtle Back Zoo for a Covid Vaccine event.
- December 19th, Food Distribution event at Branch Brook Park.
- Budget prep with Administration, there are no special request.
- Discussed yearly initiatives

- Suicide Prevention
- Mental Health



- Vaccinations
- Health Screenings

OEM Report

Mr. Egelberg reported the following items:

- Ida projects are finished and all that's left is submitting the documentation for our roads and receiving the reimbursement for that. The Village is still anticipating roughly \$3,000,000 more in reimbursements for repairs to the roads.
 - The State of New Jersey has hired a consulting firm and offered to work with municipalities on their EOP and South Orange has taken them up on that offer. The report is finished and is now being signed off on by the respective departments.
 - Coordinator Egelberg attended the 12/4 county OEM meeting.
- South Orange is working on their 5 year Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Greer Patras, Julie Doran, Joe Foligno, David Battaglia and Coordinator Egelberg are meeting with a firm hired by the state to complete the plan.

Rescue Squad Report

Chief Rothstein read a statement about the life of Melanie Troncone. The committee express lovely sentiments on the impact Ms. Troncone made on the Village. Chief Rothstein reported on the SORS monthly, please see attached. Lastly, Chief Rothstein the Maplewood Foundation Grant.

Police Department Report

During the month of November, there were a total of 11 mental health related calls: 6 were responded to with MHA Clinician; 2 calls were made during hours MHA is not scheduled and 2 were walk-ins and MHA Clinician was not requested and 1 was a phone call. Of the 6 calls MHA Clinician was present, 5 were resolved at the scene and 4 accepted mental health treatment services, 0 was an involuntary transport to hospital, 1 was a voluntary transport to the hospital and there was 0 arrests.

During the month of November, there were a total of 9 individuals who were contacted for follow up. MHA Clinician successfully linked 7 individuals to mental health and other needed services.



Mental Health Advocate Report

Traffic/Engineering Report

In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, a report was read to the committee by Chair:

- Milling & paving has been completed for Prospect, Mead, North Ridgewood, Wilden, and the Baird Parking Lot. The speed humps on Wilden were replaced and 2 ADA spaces were added to Baird. In all locations where they didn't already exist crosswalks were upgraded to a high-visibility ladder design.
- Vose and Lenox designs are currently with NJDOT for review. Both projects include public safety enhancements such as pedestrian islands and pedestrian bumpouts to "daylight" intersections.
- West End Road construction has begun, water main is currently being installed. This roadway will have a new sidewalk from top to bottom of interest to the H&PS Committee.
- We have a list of striping locations for which we will be advertising for spring construction as temperatures prohibit this work in the winter. There are currently only 2 RACs which are part of this project.
- We have a list of tree-damaged sidewalk locations that we will be advertising for spring construction as temperatures prohibit this work in the winter. There are currently only 6 RACs which are part of this project.
- The engineering office was recently alerted to OPRA-2024-01105 requesting accident information for 2nd & Academy. Accident information is collected by SOPD, but the requestor indicated a desire to change the existing stop signs to solar powered blinking red units. My understanding is that the requestor will be bringing this up to Village Council and the H&PS Committee. Changing the signs is not directly an Engineering issue; it is a matter of 3 department as follows: if a need is determined SOPD and Administration can confirm there is available budget then Public Works can install the blinking signs. That said, Engineering has no objection to changing the signs. Our only caution would be that blinking signs can be problematic for adjacent residents who will see the blinking all the time.

Walk/Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

There were no reports.

Public Comments



The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.

[comments are limited to 3 minutes]

Adam Heydt, South Orange Resident, raise traffic and pedestrian safety concerns on Academy Street.

Next Meeting Date

January 14, 2024; 6pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary