



HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Febreuary 11, 2025

All committee members present approved the February 11, 2025, meeting minutes.

General Discussion

Health Department Report

Ms. Davenport reported on the following items:

- Women's Health report presentation at the next Village Council
- Local Public Health Grant Update
- Rodent Prevention Measures update

- Ms. Davenport recapped the walk-through with the County.

Officer Davenport discussed working with Mr. Egelberg to implement a button for the rental registration to identify pet owners in multifamily buildings. From this information the health apartment will be able to reach out to the pet owners for licensing.

- The committee discussed the transmission of bird flu through stray cats.



OEM Report

Coordinator Egelberg discussed the following items:

- Tropical Storm Ida reimbursements update
- South Orange Village Hazard Migration Plan

- A resolution was passed on February 24 that codified the Village's participation in the program. The first draft of the plan has been completed and is currently able to be reviewed at southorange.org.

- February 9th- Snow Storm.

Rescue Squad Report

Chief Rothstein reported on the following items:

- Discussed monthly responses for February
- Ambulance tour at Village Babies Development Center
- SORS received a generous grant from the Harbor Freight Foundation. SORS purchased two generators.
- Chief Rothstein discussed instituting a new medical supply inventory tracking program.
- SORS revamped their CPR and Community Classes program. SORS will host monthly CPR and First Aid Classes in addition to private classes (per request).

Police Department Report

• Mental Health Advocate Update

Chief Morillo reported on crime statistics for February, including thefts, burglaries and assaults. The police department has been using social media and hand to hand communications to inform residents about updates and theft risks. The Chief stated that motor vehicle theft numbers have decreased. The police department has continued monitoring and addressing incidents at houses of worship. Lastly, Chief Morillo discussed finalizing a date for the South Orange Police Department basketball game for autism awareness and fundraising.

Mental Health Advocate Update

- Providing ongoing training for officers on recognizing mental health situations.
- Continues working with the MHA clinician to provide mental health services to the community.



Traffic/Engineering Report

Mr. Battaglia submitted the following report:

- NJDOT has returned comments for the Vose and Lenox projects which we are currently addressing. Both projects include public safety enhancements such as pedestrian islands and pedestrian bumpouts to "daylight" intersections.
- SHPO has similarly returned comments for the West Montrose project, which have been addressed and returned to NJDOT for further review. This project includes bike lanes and other speed controls like additional rumble strips and 15 mph advisory speed limit signage at Vose and Clark.
- West End Road water main installation is nearly complete. The contractor is working when weather permits and will soon begin drainage system work. This roadway will have a new sidewalk from top to bottom of interest to the H&PS Committee. Plans are available on the Roads Repaving page of our website.
- We have a list of striping locations for which we will be advertising for spring construction as temperatures prohibit this work in the winter.
- 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. Note that Code Enforcement has significantly increased its reporting of tree related sidewalk issues.
- The County's contractor for the ongoing Valley Street traffic signals project has demobilized for winter and will return in April. Plans are available on the Roads Repaving page of our website. Public Works will reinstall the missing blinking pedestrian signal at Valley & 1st until April, then remove them both while the contractor finishes curb & sidewalk work. They will then be re-installed until the traffic signal equipment is installed in November.
- The County informed us last week that they will also be installing another new traffic signal at Valley & Arnold under a different contract. We have no details on schedule for this work as the preconstruction meeting was cancelled due to snow, but we have been provided with plans that are available on the Roads Repaving page of our website.
- I know there are often questions about Academy Street at both H&PS and PW&U. Engineering is not currently involved in any tasks on Academy.

Walk/Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

The committee has plans to advertise the Safe Street Action Plan and encourage residents to fill out the survey.

Public Comments



**The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.
[comments are limited to 3 minutes]**

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date

April 8, 2025; 6pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary