



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Health & Public Safety Committee Meeting

WEBEX- Virtual Meeting
South Orange, NJ 07079

January 21 , 2021; 6PM

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE

Call to order

ATTENDANCE: Chairperson Coalier; Trustee Clarke; Trustee Jones; Fire Chief Sullivan; Police Chief Kroll, Lt. Acevedo; SORS Captain Cass; Health Officer Mr. Festa; OEM Coordinator Mr. Egelberg; Village Engineer Mr. Renda; Recording Secretary Joycelyn White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 12, 2020

December 10, 2020

All committee members present approved the November 12, 2020 & December 10, 2020 meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jordan Muhammed, South Orange Resident; asked for an update on the Social Worker Project and the focus of H&PS Committee.

Trustee Coalier explained that the H&PS Committee formerly focuses only on emergency management (Police/Fire/Rescue Squad). When Trustee Coalier was elected Health was added because most issues intertwined with those departments. The involvement of public in this meeting is to discuss traffic issues as well; the committee will report on County updates and discuss traffic calming measure to be put in place.

REPORT SUMMARY & QUESTIONS, FOLLOW UP AND NEW ITEMS

GENERAL (Impacts all)

Care & Community Justice Update- As discussed in the last few meetings, the Village is partnering with Seton Hall University and Essex County for a pilot program. The Village is requesting funding from Essex County for this pilot program and Trustee Coalier is optimistic that this will be finalized very soon. The next steps will be drafting service contracts and negotiations. As it related to the Seton Hall University partnership the key component is to grant Dr. Rios a leave of absence from SHU to help spearhead programs two phases. The first phase is the needs assessment, which will help prioritize the community needs. The second phase is based on the needs assessment to then design the program. Trustee Coalier expressed the excitement she has for this program and believes this will greatly benefit the Village.

HEALTH

Report Summary and Questions

COVID Updates- HO Festa reported 539 cases, 8486 negative case. A breakdown of 292 males and 247 females, average age of male cases is 38 and the average age of female cases is 41. In response to Trustee Coalier's question, Mr. Festa stated that in the total of 8486 cases involve double/triple testing. In the reported numbers, the Health Officer is looking at the negatives and positives only.

New items- Mr. Festa gave a brief update on the County Contact Tracers/Investigator, the Health Dept has about 3-4 contact investigators/tracers that assist him. The Contact Tracer/Investigator has been helping with the travel advisory and Mr. Festa stated that it has been a great help. HO Festa explained that the Contact Tracers/Investigators are from around the State and are paid through the State Dept. of Health. and trained at Rutgers University. The Contact Tracer/Investigators are then broken down by County. At the Vaccination sites, most workers are volunteer but some are employees of the County. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Jones announced that apart of Black History Month, a PSA is being put together with African American doctors to raise awareness for the COVID-19 Vaccine in the African American communities. There are some hesitancy regarding the vaccine in the community and distributing this PSA will help provided more information. HO Festa stated that he will help promote the PSA when it is ready for distribution.

OEM

Report Summary and Questions-Coordinator Egelberg secured an additional \$2000,363,76 in CARES Act funding for the Village, bringing the total of \$417,467.22 in CARED Act funding During the course of 2020.

COVID Updates- Coordinator Egelberg has created a new COVID-19 dashboard for the [southorangepublicworks.com](https://southorangepublicworks.com/covid19) website. Mr. Egelberg OEM has been assisting other departments with their response to complaints of non-compliance with the Executive Orders set forth by the Governor.

SHU COVID Coordination- OEM & The Health Dept. continues to meet with Seton Hall University on a bi-weekly basis to go over their COVID-19 response.

New Items- Coordinator Egelberg reported that he personally retrained all the SOPD patrol officers in CPR and first aid.

RESCUE

Report Summary and Questions-Captain Cass reported the SORS respond to a total of 104 calls in the month of December. The total calls for the year is 1204, compared to last years total is lower due to the SORS covering the Village for 24 hours for a few months.

All COVID-19 protections remain in place. The SORS continues to report to the Essex County EMS Coordinator and NJ DOH. Capt. Cass stated that members of the squad have started to get vaccinated and has had no issues in getting appointments. The SORS has responded to 89 (+) suspected / confirmed COVID-19 patients since March 1st, 2020. Capt. Cass announced that the SORS received a \$5,000 from the Williams Foundation to support the response to the pandemic.

Lastly, the Rescue Squad concluded the Frozen Fest for EMS 4-Miler. There were 103 participants/doner and raised a total of \$4,900. Capt. Cass thanked everyone for their continued support of the SORS. For more information relating to the yearly SORS statistics, please see attached. Going forward into 2021, Capt. Cass stated the SORS would like to re engage various committees and improvements to the building & vehicles. Discussion ensued.

FIRE

Report Summary and Questions- Chief Sullivan reported the Fire Department is almost 100% vaccinated. The department are battling a few active COVID-19 cases but are taking all precautions and protocol to protect themselves and the residents they serve. In response to Trustee Jones, Chief Sullivan stated that the new recruits are acclimating very well to the department. The next step will be for them to be officially sworn in.

Maplewood Automatic Aid, Radio Coordination, and Joint Training- The contracts are now being reviewed by the Village and Township Attorneys, in terms of automatic aid and joint training. A tour is scheduled every month, the next one will at the end of January .

POLICE

Report Summary and Questions- Chief Kroll detailed his report December statistics report. Discussion ensued regarding the end of year report. For more information on this report, please visit www.southorange.org. Chief Kroll thanks Sgt. Acevedo for his hard work on this year-end report.

Sgt. Avedeo detailed statistics for calls of service, in the last 30 days the SOPD has a total of 1675. 23 of those calls are Part 1 crimes, busiest time of day 9am, Monday/Tues/Weds is the busiest time of week. Sgt. Acevedo announced the SOPD is looking for crossing guards. Employment information is posted on the village website; [http://www.southorange.org/213/Employment-Opportunities](https://www.southorange.org/213/Employment-Opportunities). Trustee Coalier stated it would be beneficial to announce this at the next BOT meeting and social media. SOPD has recently brought a pick up truck to help transport heavy load, such as barricades. Sgt. Acevedo announced a partnership with Cybertimes and "211" to report crimes online. Such as; fraud, phishing emails. Sgt. Acevedo plans to put out more information to the residents in the coming weeks.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Annual traffic safety report - summary, progress, timing- Sgt. Acevedo stated that the traffic issues that are reported haven't changed in a number of years. Because of the success of the rumble strips and speed table on Scotland Rd, he would suggest that this would greatly benefit Valley St. traffic and he will contact the County. In response to Trustee Clarke, Sgt. Acevedo stated the crash report has been sent only to Mr. Renda. Trustee Clarke suggested the report be sent to the County Engineer. Also to follow up with the County for an update on improvement to Valley St. Section (1st Street-3rd Street); Sloan Street improvement in terms of the Master Plan. Sgt. Acevedo reported the biggest reduction in traffic related issues is at Wilden and Ward.

Traffic Safety Tracking Document- Mr. Renda has received the Annual Crash Report and will review in more detail. If there are quick physical areas (signage and crosswalks) to address, then he will coordinate with DPW.

Crosswalk at Irvington Avenue & Cottage St.- Essex has no future plans on adding the crosswalk. However, Mr. Renda stated that there is the Irvington Avenue development happening and would speak to the developer about including the improvement.

Irvington Avenue Streetscape- The County has not reach our area but these improvement are included in the Masterplan.

Line of sight/parking issue at Valley St and Hixon Pl.- Ordinance 2020-26 will be read on second reading at the next BOT meeting on January 25, 2021. Mr. Renda reported that notices were given to the tenants to inform them of the change, because of the landlord's issues of losing the parking spaces. There is an concern from the new owner of the former Blimpies property regarding circulation and traffic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Parlapiano, South Orange Resident, asked Sgt. Acevedo regarding his comments of Scotland Rd. improving and if there is data to back up that opinion? This will help other residents see the change and send to the County.

Sgt. Acevedo stated that he can do a traffic study to provide more data. Scotland Rd. does have a permanent counter installed. However it cannot count the traffic both ways and won't provide data for the south bound traffic. It can tell volume and speed. Sgt. Acevedo will do traffic study for the data in the next coming weeks.

NEXT MEETING DATES (2nd Thursday of the Month)

February 11, 2021

March 11, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm

Submitted by: Joycelyn E. White, Recording Secretary