



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Health & Public Safety Committee Meeting

WEBEX- Virtual Meeting
South Orange, NJ 07079

February 11, 2021; 6:04pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE

Call to order

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 21, 2021

All committee members present approved the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

REPORT SUMMARY & QUESTIONS, FOLLOW UP AND NEW ITEMS

GENERAL (Impacts all)

Community Care & Justice Update- Trustee Coalier gave a brief update on the new committee. Dr. Rios introduced Trustee Coalier to the volunteers, these volunteers will be helping conduct the needs assessment and the program design. The needs assessment has a couple of levels, the committee is going to leverage a study that has already started at SHU. It will explore the relationship between the police and the community. The next step is to then conduct a study regarding the community that sits outside of law enforcement to address their concerns. Trustee Coalier announced a Town Hall Meeting to formally announce the committee to the community on March 7, 2021.

Agenda Prep/Process - Ms. White updated the committee on the new format of the committee/board agendas and minutes.

HEALTH

Report Summary and Questions- HO Festa reported 609 cases; 9023 Negative cases. This breaks down to 300 males and 276 Females. Mr. Festa explained a report from the State named C.A.L.I. (Covid Activity Level Index). This report is based on four levels and color Green/Yellow/ Orange(High)/ Red (Very High). Last week the colors for the entire State of NJ was Orange. Presently in the northwest and Central West area is Yellow. Everywhere else is Orange. Mr Egelberg shared the committee State report.

In response to Trustee Jones, Mr. Festa stated that this report is confidential. In terms of helping seniors make appointments for the vaccination, seniors will have to call a call center and make the appointment manually. Mr Festa had a meeting with the County Health Dept. and stated that vaccination appointments are about a month out. Discussion ensued regarding vaccination amounts and confusion between the State website and the County website. Mr.Festa informed the committee the State site is not for registration and is used as a line up (eligibility).

Trustee Coalier and Trustee Jones asked Mr. Egelberg to put together a "How to register for the Vaccine" list to push out to social media.

New Items- The Committee discussed a Town Hall on COVID-19 to update the community. Trustee Coalier suggest Mr. Egelberg to work with SOMA Two Towns Coordinator, Cathy Rowe to help senior create their own Gmail account to aid in registering for the vaccine appointment.

OEM

Report Summary and Questions

COVID Updates-Coordinator Egelberg has been assisting the town with messaging during the pandemic and responding to various media requests regarding South Orange's COVID-19 response.

SHU COVID Coordination-Coordinator Egelberg has been meeting with Seton Hall University on a bi-weekly basis to go over their COVID response.

Winter Storm Outcome- Due to the winter storm on January 31, 2021, Mr. Egelberg reported that the Village will hopefully receive funding from FEMA. The village made it through the storm without many incidents. Police/Fire/ DPW were able to get to their calls within good call times. Roughly \$102,000 was spent between salaries (overtime), equipment use. In response to Trustee Coalier, Coordinator Egelberg stated that the Rescue Squad wouldn't qualify for FEMA funding due to them being an independent entity. Discussion ensued regarding Winter Parking Ordinance.

RESCUE

Report Summary and Questions- Capt. Cass stated all Covid-19 protections are in place and the SORS submitted Project Application to FEMA (in review) for COVID related expenses. SORS members has begun to receive their 2nd COVID Vaccines. For detailed information on the SORS report, please see attached.

New items- Capt. Cass announced the SORS schedule has been updated for the spring and has accepted two new members. Lastly, the SORS will be partnering with SHU to form an Internship Program. Though the program is in its early stages, it will be targeted for students in healthcare majors and possible credits to be awarded.

FIRE

Report Summary and Questions- Chief Sullivan reported all COVID-19 protections are still in place and announced that the SOFD have five recruits are now probationary firefighters and ranks have been assigned. The SOFD responded to 208 incidents for a variety of emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, natural gas investigations, electrical emergencies, and assorted service calls. Mutual Aid response was provided to the City of Orange, East Orange, and Newark during this period. For more detailed information regarding the SOFD report, please see attached. In response to Trustee Coalier regarding added diversity to the department, Chief Sullivan stated that recruits are chosen by ranks on through the list.

Maplewood Automatic Aid, Radio Coordination, and Joint Training- The first Joint training was cancelled by Maplewood due to COVID-19 but has been rescheduled for February 22-25, 2021. The legal documents between the two town is still a work in progress and there is no target date as of now to when it will be sign. Trustee Coalier asked Ms. White to reach out to Mr. Otis for an update of the legal document.

POLICE

Report Summary and Questions- Lt. Acevedo reported the statistics for the month of January. The total calls for the month were 1622 calls . Of those calls there were 92 part 1 crimes. On going projects, Lt. Acevedo detailed how the speed counters work and are being used. There are two completely different counters that are permanent in the Village, one is on Scotland Rd. and the other is Ridgewood Rd. The SOPD were having difficulty pulling the data off of these counters due to the manufacturing, however the SOPD is now working with the manufacturers to retrieve the data. In the future, Lt. Acevedo would like to purchase new speed counter that are user friendly. New legislation is in the process of being passed regarding body cameras, Lt. Acevedo expressed his excitement for this because this include funding. Incorporating previous purchases of vehicle camera equipment, Lt. Acevedo made sure they could be integrated with body cameras.

Vose & Scotland Rd. Project Update- Lt. Acevedo announced that the sidewalk will be closed to pedestrians next week and next will be the closure of half of Taylor Pl. SOPD will be working with the developer to facilitate the closure and will not allow them to close off the street without proper signage. Discussion ensued.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic Safety Process update- Trustee Clarke will follow up with Administration regarding this document.

Annual traffic safety report - follow up- Lt. Acevedo emailed the report to the County Engineer's office and has not received a response.

Traffic Safety Tracking document

-Scotland Roads Projects, Mr. Renda stated everything has been taken care of. The issue is the light, due to a few polls being down. Mr. Renda is waiting for a plan to fix the lights from the County.

Line of sight/parking issue at Valley St and Hixon Pl.- Mr. Renda received a call from the property owner of that corner and explained the concern. After their conversation, the property owner now understands the sight distance issue. The ordinance was on the agenda at the BOT meeting but has been carried to the next meeting. In response to Trustee Coalier, Mr. Renda stated that the BOT can move forward with this Ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding plowing of snow on the corners.

Irvington Ave Redevelopment/ Crosswalk on Cottage- Mr. Renda discussed the difficulties of adding a crosswalk in that area but this topic has been added to the Traffic Safety Tracking document for further updates.

Master Plan Community Input- Trustee Coallier added this topic to the agenda for the committee to discuss updates from Topology to insure community concerns being captured.

NEXT MEETING DATES (2nd Thursday of the Month)

March 11, 2021

April 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm

Submitted by: Joycelyn E. White, Recording Secretary