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HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 14, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call Meeting to Order

Chairperson Coalier- Absent
Trustee Haskins
Trustee Brown
Fire Chief Sullivan
Interim Chief, Capt. Dolinac
Lt. Acevedo
SORS Chief Rothstien
Mr. Festa, Health Officer
Mr. Egelberg, OEM Coordinator
Mr. Battaglia, Village Engineer-Absent
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary-Absent

Approval of Minutes

- **August 12, 2021**
- **September 9, 2021**

The committee has tabled the August and September meeting minutes to the November 4, 2021 meeting.

Report Summary & Questions, Follow Up and New Items

General (Impacts all)

Care & Community Justice Update

In the absence of Trustee Coalier, SORS Chief Rothstein briefed the committee on CC&J meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The meeting was a forum with guest speakers from the state police and Seton Hall University representatives to discuss goals. Chief Dolinac added that this was also a kick-off event for their



mentor program between the SOPD , Newark Police and the Allen Houston Mentor Program. In total, there are 10 officers from both agencies matched with 10 juveniles. Either from South Orange or surrounding communities. In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Dolinac stated that he will provide the point person for the mentor program. Trustee Coalier will give a detailed report at the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for the general items.

New Items

Health (Please see report attached)

Public Comment- Report Questions

In the absence of Mr. Festa a detailed report was attached to the agenda.

OEM

Report Summary & Questions

Mr. Egelberg stated that South Orange received approximately \$98,000 in reimbursements from Tropical Storm Isaias. In addition, the Village has also been approved for another roughly \$24,000 in funds. Coordinator Egelberg has been meeting with Seton Hall University on a bi-weekly basis to go over their COVID response. 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.

Ida Impact & Recovery

The OEM Coordinator attended an exploratory call with FEMA and Mr. Loehner to discuss upcoming projects and how to mitigate issues concerning the Public Works Department. Next week will be the scope and discovery meeting. Coordinator Egelberg also attended the South Orange Cannabis Task Force in his capacity with OEM and will be participating in the Townhall meeting on October 21, 2021.

In response to Trustee Haskins, Mr. Egelberg is researching for the public safety department for preparedness. The main focus at this moment is insuring proper equipment and facilities are up to par.

Public Comment



Trustee Haskins read into the record a resident's question from Webex Chat. Are there plans to mitigate flood areas in the residential areas?

In response to the resident's questions, Trustee Haskins stated that as chair of the Public Works and Utilities committee, this will be discussed at the next meeting on October 21, 2021 at 8am. Specifically, on storm water mitigation from resiliency and prevention stand point.

New Items

There were no new items.

Rescue

Report Summary & Questions

Chief Rothstien detailed the SORS monthly activities, such as Newcommer's Day, resident block parties and the 9/11 Memorial. The Rescue Squad provided stand-by's for the Newstead 5k race, CHS football games and Our Lady of Sorrows Cross Country meet. The Chief announced a partnership with Mammogrpahy in Motion for the month of October. Mammography in Motion will be hosting a free event at the SORS building later this month. The Rescue Squad will be wearing pink shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month to help spread awareness. Additionally, SORS has been speaking with Walgreens regarding planning flu vaccine clinics in their building. Dates for the mentioned events will be announced soon. Chief Rothstien detailed the CPR program initiative where the proceeds would help with purchasing AEDs and stations to be placed around town. The first placement will be at the South Orange Public Library. The SORS has officially signed for the purchase of a new ambulance, which they will receive next year. Chief Rothstein reported nine new members had been added to the squad and created a new onboarding program. There is a new wellness & engagement program for their members. Lastly, the Rescue Squad received a donated washer & dryer from Samsung.

In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Rothstien stated that the partnership with Mammography in Motion is new. The Chief added that the Mammography vehicle, where exams are conducted, is currently being repaired. Once repaired, an event date will be announced.

Mr. Egelberg asked if the flu clinic would be free? The Chief explained that for patrons with insurance, the vaccine would be free and for patrons without insurance there would be a \$30 fee. The planning is in its very early stages and more details will be announced soon.



Public Comment

There was no public comment on the SORS report.

New Items

There were no new items.

Fire

Report Summary & Questions

Chief Sullivan submitted a detailed report to the committee and entertained any questions regarding such. The Chief stated that the Fire Department was very fortunate in not sustaining a lot of damage during tropical storm Ida. The only concern for the department is a large garage across from their building that stores respiratory equipment. Though very close to SOPAC, which took in many feet of water; the garage only had one inch of water. Trustee Haskins added that though this time the department was fortunate with this storm, the department will be making a preventative plan for any future storms. Chief Sullivan agreed and in all the years of living in South Orange, tropical storm Ida was the worst.

In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Sullivan stated that automatic aid response calls are very few for the month. The did respond to a few storm call, but mostly the department will get called and mid route aren't needed.

Maplewood Automatic Aid, Radio Coordination, and Joint Training

For more details, please see the monthly Fire department report attached.

Public Comment

There was no public comment on the Fire Department report.

New Items

There were no new items.

Police

Report Summary & Questions

Chief Dolinac detailed the monthly activities for the police department. The reports are equal to the reports from last year, which reflects the number of part 1



crimes reported to the department. The Chief stated that the officers' response times are very good and the clearance rates are excellent. The detective bureau, which was fully staffed seven months ago, is now able to follow up and keep up with the work load. Chief Dolinac stated that the department continues to develop the social work program with CC&J and anticipates the pilot program to start soon. The program is in its final stages of reviewing the general order within the police personnel and how referrals will be handled. The department is still waiting for the body-worn cameras from the vendor. Once received, Chief Dolinac is advised to allot 6 weeks for installation. The department welcomed a returning officer, Rashan Maddrey, and the Chief stated he was very happy to have him back.

Digital Video System

A meeting was conducted between village attorneys and Judge Otis and members of the Community Police Collaborative to discuss the updates to the digital systems policy. Judge Otis thanked the SOPD for their transparency and being above board with their policy. Draft copies of the policy were distributed to the CPC for review for discussion at their next meeting.

In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Dolinac stated that the next steps would be to review the feedback from the committee after their meeting and make any changes. From there, the policy would be presented to the Board of Trustees to make a decision to move forward with purchasing additional digital video equipment for installation. The purchases that had been slated for this year were put on hold. In regard to digital video systems, because it covers highly sensitive matters such as content of law enforcement computers, access to the computers and criminally investigatory information. The Attorney General's directive is to follow the guidelines that help maintain and protect these systems. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

There was no public comment on the Police Department report.

New Items

There was no new items.

Traffic Safety

Report Summary & Questions

Lt. Acevedo reported that in the last 30 days the SOPD has responded to a total of 1,867 calls. Out of those calls, 34 calls were classified as Tier 1. The busiest day



of the week was Wednesday. The busiest time of the day is 9am, followed by 11pm. The department's response time for "hot calls" is about 40 seconds. The department was able to conduct as many details due to vehicles being damaged in the storm and staffing. Lt. Acevedo detailed a traffic study conducted on Grove road because of resident concerns. Normally the studies are 7-8 days long, but it was only done for 5 days due to the counter-battery. For Grove Road, in one direction there were 6,877 cars and the average speed was 25mph. The 85th percentile was 29mph. Lt. Acevedo stated he would like to conduct a full 8-day survey in the coming weeks. After reviewing the data, Lt. Acevedo has determined that there isn't a grave speeding issue in that area. Lt. Acevedo announced that the department is in need of crossing guards and asked the committee to spread the word to anyone who might be looking for extra hours. Lt. Acevedo discussed target enforcement conducted by Marshall School, South Moutian School and Irvington Avenue. The department attended Newcommer's Day and Newstead 5K.

Lt. Acevedo detailed the traffic issues due to the Vose & Taylor construction. There are many factors to constructing a building this size, with a lot of moving parts. In Lt. Acevedo's experience, the construction crew is the most organized in comparison to projects in the past. Due to the location of the construction, it will cause an obstruction to the traffic pattern. Lt. Acevedo stated to the public that the department is working with the construction crew to plan and help mitigate traffic closures. As of now, due to the PSE&G work, it will impact the traffic for the next week.

Next Lt. Acevedo discussed the new National Incident-Based Reporting System (N.I.B.R.S.) and this program will be phasing out UCR. This program will be used to run statistical reports, though it is not fully up and running. The department will rely on the state police repository.

Ida Impact & Recovery

There was no report.

Follow up: Annual Traffic Safety Report & Essex County

In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, a report will be given at the next meeting.

Road Repair/Safety Upgrade Process- Local & County



In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, a report will be given at the next meeting.

Mobility Action Committee

Public Comment

Pearl Feder, South Orange Resident, attended the HPS meeting back in August to address traffic concerns and request signs on Longview Rd. & Laural Place. After further inspection of the road, the issue is from Redmont Road to Harding Drive and from Laural Place to Longview. Ms. Feder shared a video with the committee and hasn't received any updates on the matter and asked if the video was indeed shared? As a board member of the senior advisory committee, Ms. Feder believes this is a serious issue. After reviewing Mr. Battaglia's email, Mr. Feder is challenging the federal guidelines regarding blind spots.

In response to Ms. Feder, the committee member present, stated that the video was not circulated for review. Lt. Acevedo stated that he is aware of the area referenced and this matter was discussed at length at a previous meeting. There is no data that supports a need for a stop sign on Laural and Longview. Lt. Acevedo discussed the guidelines the village must follow to place a stop sign. The Village cannot install a stop sign without the proper data or fitting the criteria. Discussion ensued regarding the criteria for installing a stop sign. Trustee Haskins referenced Mr. Battaglia's suggestions of alternative methods to calm the intersection.

In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, Trustee Haskins will follow up on this matter.

Nick Roads, a South Orange Resident, detailed a pedestrian safety issue on Ward Place and Irvington Avenue. Mr. Roads stated that it is difficult to cross on the north side and the curb cut put pedestrians right into the path of on-coming traffic. Mr. Roads took a video of the area and will forward it to the committee.

In response to Mr. Roads, Lt. Acevedo stated that he is very familiar with this area and concerns. This was discussed at a meeting with Trustee Jones, Lt. Acevedo and Mr. Battaglia. Any ideas the village comes up with has to be presented and approved by the Essex County. Irvington Avenue is a county road and the village can't take matters into their own hands. The best solution at this time is to enhance enforcement in that area. Lt. Acevedo detailed the police detail that were placed at the Delta gas station. Trustee Haskins announced that the village received a grant for the Irvington Avenue Corridor, which is \$125,000 per year, over 5 years with some matching funds. What is being discussed is to use the



grant for streetscape, street leveling, and space-making measures. This could have a positive effect on pedestrian safety and could possibly provide a new way to approach the County.

New Items

Trustee Haskins received a concern from Trustee Jones regarding the increase in car theft incidents. In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Dolinac stated that in his report there were 3 car thefts in September. For the past several months there has been an uptick of car thefts, in which most cars are stolen with keys left in the car or unlocked. SOPD urges residents to lock their car doors, garages, and home doors.

Executive Session

Next Meeting Date

November 11, 2021

Adjournment