

Worksite Safety and Health Committee
September 14, 2023

Present: Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Resident State Trooper Mark Roberts, Building and Grounds Superintendent Andrew Harrington, EES Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald, Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo, Park and Recreation Director Mary Ellen Barnes, and Fire Chief Andrew Kressley.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:48 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Mary Ellen Barnes to approve the agenda. Andrew Harrington seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Mark Roberts to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes. Tom Fitzgerald seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Andrew Kressley reported the fire department had Hurricane Lee preparation last night. He also reported the new heavy rescue apparatus should be arriving within the next month. This vehicle was purchased with ARPA funds and is replacing the current heavy rescue apparatus that is 23 years old. The new vehicle is bigger, better organized, holds more equipment, and good for extrications.

Chief Kressley reported the Fire Department is holding a Community Safety Day on September 23 at the fire house. Connecticut Resident Troopers and the Essex Ambulance Association will be there. There are some fire boxes and education sessions on the importance of closing doors to bedrooms. Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo reported that she would not be attending the event, but there will be new emergency preparedness guidebooks available for residents to pick up as well as Covid test kits and free masks.

Chief Kressley reported there was one member who sustained an injury while removing their air pack and bunker gear and dislocated their shoulder.

Chief Kressley reported they have three new members who are all in training now.

Mark Roberts reported the Essex Police Department received two resignations, one part time officer and one full time officer and then hired two full time officers, both on September 1, 2023. The Town is still actively seeking a part time officer. Essex has many events and construction jobs. Trooper Roberts reported they are getting trained on Narcan and tourniquets.

Chief Kressley reported the Fire Department carries a stop the bleed bag that contains 18 – 20 tourniquets in it. The bag is designed for an active shooter situation.

Tom Fitzgerald had nothing new to report except the new Principal is David Kitzman.

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Mary Ellen reported that Park and Recreation had a wonderful summer and there were no incidents with a record number of camp attendees. They had over 100 children participate over the 7 weeks of camps. They are now moving into fall programming. The Pumpkin Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 29th and there are 110 registered participants for the parade.

Chief Kressley reported the Fire Department is holding their Halloween parade at 6 pm on Tuesday, October 31.

Mary Ellen reported that Social Services is gearing up for fuel assistance. There was discussion that oil delivery customers cannot get a delivery until November as per the rules of State of Connecticut. But fortunately, the weather has been mild. But people do need hot water so the Town is able to assist with the Town's fuel assistance fund. Last year the need was greater due to significant increase in people's electricity bills. Each participant is looked at on a case-by-case basis,

Andrew Harrington reported that everything is going smooth and there is still one custodian out on Workers Compensation, but they are on the mend and it is anticipated they will be back to work by the end of the month.

Maria Lucarelli had nothing new to report.

Deb Minor was unable to connect through Zoom but sent in the following: "Nothing other than gratitude to Tom Fitzgerald and the custodial crew for taking such good care of the building and grounds, and for keeping the foxes off the playground!"

Health Director Fasulo reported the updated Covid vaccine is anticipated to be arriving in October. The School Security Safety Plan is required to be submitted to the State by December 1. Ms. Fasulo also reported the Town is updating the Emergency Management Plan. The Call Down Drill is also required quarterly and the Town is looking at using Everbridge to respond and click the received checked box.

Ms. Fasulo reported that this is going to be a busy flu and covid season. She is promoting everyone getting vaccinated at Nutmeg Pharmacy and the VNA will be holding flu clinics here in the Town Hall possibly in October.

Motion was made by Maria Lucarelli to adjourn at 8:08 a.m. Mary Ellen Barnes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:45 am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli