

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Virtual Meeting
Safety & Health Committee
March 17, 2021

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The Zoom meeting was called to order by Secretary Ann Denny, followed by the roll call at 10:05 a.m.

Present on-line were Dennis Marsh, Kathy Giotsas, John Stewart, Chief Gagne, Don Foyer, and Ann Denny.

The minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by John Stewart, seconded by Dennis Marsh, the motion passed 5-0-1 Chief Gagne abstained.

Old Business:

a. Status of Covid Protocols in Town Buildings

Library: Kathy Giotsas reported that employees continue wiping down the circulation and desk areas, and a town custodian sanitizes midday. The library is planning on being fully open with regular hours of operation around April 20th. There will be no in-house programs until around July, but they will continue with ZOOM and take and make programs. The library has plenty of PPE supplies. All staff that wanted to be vaccinated have been.

Police Department: Chief Gagne reported that there are COVID protocols in place. The building remains locked and anyone who enters has their temperature checked, sanitizer is available, and masks are worn when not in personal work areas. The building gets sanitized with the fogging machine. The department is trying to take more complaints over the phone and medical calls have been restricted. The few officers that contracted COVID most likely were off duty, and it was not work related. In the department about 10% have had COVID and about 85% were vaccinated.

Highway Department: Don Foyer reported everything is running smoothly at the highway department. Workers have been assigned their own vehicle and do not ride together to job sites. There have been no COVID cases and only 3 employees did not get vaccinated.

John Stewart stated most of the custodians have been vaccinated. Dennis Krissik performs mid-day cleaning at the Library and Town Hall. Rickie Randolph takes care of the Police Department during the day and Gerry Couden does the evenings. All surfaces, doorknobs, and high touch points are sanitized.

Community Center: Dennis Marsh reported that they are slowly re-opening programs for seniors. It is important for the senior's mental health not just physical health for them to participate in activities. They continue to wear masks and practice social distancing by following the x's on the floor, the gym floor has been marked in 6' and 12' distances. The vans are sanitized with the misting machine, and they try to only have one passenger at a time but when more than one passenger is on board every other seat is used.

Dan Lynch was not able to be present Ann Denny read an email he sent stating that they continue to follow DPH guidelines. Health screenings continue in the lobby for pool use as well as capacity and social distancing rules and beginning Monday March 22, 2021 the Fitness Room will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on April 30, 2021 they will reassess to see if they can open it until 4:00 p.m. starting May 1, 2021.

b. Covid 19 Vaccines

Terri Waldron was not present because she was at a Covid vaccine clinic Ann Denny read an email she sent regarding vaccines. The Wednesday clinics for seniors > 75 are wrapping up. Most all have been contacted from the Town list. The Thursday clinics will continue as well as a separate clinic for Orange Teachers on March 19th. There has been no problem with the supply, but they are not guaranteed it will continue. Chief Gagne wanted to thank all those involved with running the clinic, Terri has done a great job as well as all the volunteers who have helped them run so smoothly.

c. Sexual Harassment Training: Ann Denny gave an update that 11 employees have completed the online Sexual harassment Training. Ryan Wells from H.G. Segur provided a link for new employees and a few who missed the in-person session last February. Ann reminded everyone that if they have new employees to contact her and she will send them the link. There are no plans at this time for another in-person training because the one we did last year is good for 10 years.

New Business:

a. Re-opening plans for Town buildings:

Most of the department heads at the meeting gave updates on how their building will re-open as restrictions are lifted in the state next week. Chief Gagne felt that the Governor is opening too much too soon and that we could see a surge in cases, his department will not be following those guidelines but rather continuing to err on the side of caution and reassess as needed. Others on the committee felt the same.

b. Any other new business: Chief Gagne wanted to address the Police

Accountability Bill, one of the pillars in the bill is officer safety and wellness. Officers will be required to get a psychological test every five years; currently Orange officers are tested when hired. Orange officers have tactical vests not just bullet proof vests and officers are trained in crisis intervention. There are good

parts of the bill, but there are many unfunded mandates in the bill, one requires Federal certification our department is State certified.

There was no other new business.

On the motion made by John Stewart, seconded by Chief Gagne and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Denny,
Secretary