

Worksite Safety and Health Committee
December 7, 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, Fire Marshal John Planas, Teacher Representative Deb Minor, Public Works Director Ryan Welch, CIRMA Representative Jeffrey Joseph, 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 Deb Minor to approve the agenda. Andrew Harrington seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Andrew Kressley to approve the September 14, 2023 minutes. Mark Roberts seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trooper Mark Roberts reported Christopher Reid was hired as a part time police officer. The Town has four full time and three part time officers. Trooper Roberts also reported Essex is the first Resident State Trooper town in the State of Connecticut to achieve Tier 1 Accreditation. Paul Kenefick is working on Tiers 2 and 3 and working on 2028 compliance.

Jeffrey Joseph reported there has been an increase in claims but Essex is not severe in comparison. Essex had had 5 claims in the prior policy year and during July to December there were no claims whatsoever. Before 2022 – 2023 there was an average of 3 to 5 claims, and now zero. Most claims submitted are when moving items and lifting items, mostly innocuous everyday things from regular activities, those are the types of injuries they are seeing. Jeff suggested doing a W/C or LAP Assessment. They could look at existing policies and see what we need. It is a 25 – 50 Y or N list of questions and looking at the policy and procedures that employees should be going through.

Public Work's Director Ryan Welch reported everything is going well for public works. Paving season is done. River Road sidewalk and bridge project is paused for now and will resume in April and the pedestrian bridge will be installed. There are currently Mafia blocks and cones around the area to make it safe. There are no other detours planned for 2023. We are transitioning to our snowplow season and the annual snowplow meeting is scheduled for January 2024.

Fire Chief Andrew Kressley inquired who is responsible for plowing or clearing the Town sidewalks. Ryan Welch responded the homeowner was responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes, but some would clear it, and some would not. The Selectmen decided that public works would help clear and maintain the 10 miles of sidewalk. There currently is only one bobcat. Ryan reported the Town is looking at acquiring another machine to help clear the sidewalks.

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Andrew Kressley reported there is not a whole lot going on with the fire department. They are ready for winter. Giroux is contracted to plow the fire station area. The Department does have a snowblower that is used for emergencies in homes that have not been cleared yet. The snowblower is used to get the fire department personnel and apparatus safety to the scene. It is also used when they assist the ambulance during snowstorms so that EMS can get to the patient.

Andrew mentioned that the most important thing in Town is the clock at firehouse must show accurate time. He also mentioned the new rescue truck should be arriving by end of next week. They will do a final inspection and then it will take a month to get the rescue truck in service. The old rescue truck will be sold. The fire boat is still in service until frostbiting concludes, then the boat will come out of the water and it will get winterized and wrapped. It may go into the shop for some engine repairs.

Deborah Minor reported there is so much excitement regarding the Today Show doing a live show called the "Merriest Main Street" next week. The school staff are concerned about the road being open and the school buses getting through. Trooper Mark Roberts will make sure to alert the bus company regarding any road closures.

Tom Fitzgerald reported a custodian was almost struck by a vehicle while getting the dummy out of the road. They were wearing a bright lime green jacket. There was discussion that Tom and Ryan would work at looking at a solar option and whether there is a need for a conduit. The cost is around \$14,000 and DOT would have to approve the installation. There was discussion of some grant funding may be available. Ryan stated he would send some options to Tom.

David Kitzman reported he is the new principal at Essex Elementary School. He too is aware of safety issues with vehicles and the crosswalk. He is concerned for the safety of students and all pedestrians. There are a lot of kids out walking. There was discussion of installing those flashing solar lights to be used, especially at night.

Andrew Harrington reported there is not much going on at the Essex Town Hall. Although an employee was out due to a slip and fall and they are back and the Town is back to a full custodian crew.

John Planas – had nothing new to report.

Health Director Lisa Fasulo reported there are viruses circulating around and flu is being reported in the state.

EMD Lisa Fasulo reported the Town participated in the annual emergency planning initiative (EPPI). This year the mock scenario was a car accident with a truck with a spill, fumes that were going toward the elementary school. Students needed to be evacuated.

Mark Roberts reported that Whalen Engineering donated lights and they are being installed on the trailer. The trailer can assist in picking up and moving MREs or collecting food donations.

Andrew Kressley reminded everyone that the fire department owns a short bus that can seat 15 passengers. They also have a decontamination trailer that is set up with showers. The fire department has ownership of the trailer but it does not get much use. It could be a mobile shelter. Has hot and cold water. It is the size of a tractor trailer – 25' long. You could seat 30 people in folding chairs. It is available.

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Lisa mentioned that when shelters are opened it is mostly used for charging stations.

2024 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by Andrew Kressley to approve the 2024 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule. Lisa Fasulo second the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:45 am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli