

Town of Somers  
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council  
Thursday, Dec. 2nd, 2021  
8:00 A.M.  
Meeting Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Emergency Management Director Glen Reynolds at 8:00

**II. Members present:** Glen Reynolds Todd Rolland, John Roache, Dan Thayer, Karen Hocking, and Rob O'Connor.

Also in attendance were: Steve Jacobs, Stephanie Levin Paula LaFrance, and Kim Littig

**Members Absent:** Anne Cournoyer, Bill Meier, Brian Czapla

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Update:

Steve Jacobs: 29 cases added in the system in 2 weeks, of those 10 are new and the others are older cases being added. Vaccination rates: State – 72% Town – 59%  
Cases are beginning to climb again. Should receive an update this afternoon. Dec 31<sup>st</sup> is my official last day.

Kim Littig: Introduced Rob O'Connor as the new resident trooper. Dog pound had an inspection by the state and found to be in great condition. Pistol permits are on the rise. So far 104 this year and normally average between 40-60. Medical assist and well-being check calls are on the rise. Speed check conducted on Kibbe Dr. behind Town Hall. Had some hit as fast as 50 mph. Working with DPW to come up with something to slow cars down. Stuff-A-Cruiser is going well and will end Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.

John Roache: On pace for 2500 calls for the year which is a 20% increase. Trinity Health (JMH) is looking to bring in their own ambulances for transfers and 911 emergencies. This will take away our paramedic intercepts to Stafford, which is about 400 calls. Looking at a April/May timeframe for this. Went into detail about feeder hospitals and larger hospitals and why Trinity is making this move. Staffing has taken a hit recently. We have 2 guys out on injury, lost 2 guys to recent hires are Bradly Airport. Opening contract negotiations soon. We will be offering a couple of new services to help draw more medics in. Rapid Sequence Intubation and Whole Blood. These are higher level services that are only done in a couple other services in the state. Comes with a lot of training, our staff has been to the cadaver lab at Western New England University. Covid calls are up in town and the prisons. Possible break out at JMH with staff.

Grants are beginning to open, will be applying for several. On the volunteer side there has been an influx on cadets and new members, which is a good thing.

Stephanie Lavin: We had a Covid uptick with staff before Thanksgiving, bracing for a bigger one after and the Christmas break. With the tragic school shooting in Michigan, we took time to review our plans with our staff. We have quite a few mid-year retirements which is abnormal for the district. We will be adding the H.S. generator to the CIP list, Auto transfer switch doesn't work and needs to be fixed. A few issues with bussing, nothing very concerning. We had to split routes less than 10 times so far this year. Our drivers had to cover in Ellington. All things considered we are doing very well.

Todd Rolland: Storms: October – 4 and November had 1. Town hall generator is up and running. EOC move is underway, watch room at FD finishing up and then we'll move stuff from Kibbe Fuller to the FD and DPW. Getting prepared for winter operations.

#### **IV New Business**

Karen Hocking: Held shelter drill in October, went over results in November and will review policies in December. Will be helping out with the Holiday Festival in December

Todd Rolland: Holiday festival and tree lighting will be tomorrow night. Battle Street will be shut down during the event. Many town agencies and civic groups will be involved.

Steve Jacobs: USGS Flood Plains mapping has not had any movement since Covid started. Hopefully they will start up again soon. Updated flood maps are overdue

Dan Thayer: Antenna on top of Kibbe Fuller was struck by lightning during that storm over the summer. Can't use WDJW to make announcements until its fixed

#### **V Approval of Minutes:**

Dan Thayer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting, Todd Rolland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Dan Thayer made a motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. Todd Rolland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed

#### **VI Adjournment**

Motion made by Dan Thayer to adjourn, Todd Roland seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M.