

**TOWN OF SOMERS
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday,
January 4, 2024
8:00 AM
Fire Station**

1. Call to Order at 8:03am
2. Members Present – Anne Cournoyer, Todd Rolland, Peter DeBrino, John Roache, Karen Hocking, Justin Preuss, Dr. Sam Galloway, Dan Thayer. Also in attendance Matthew Cox, Tim Keeney, First Selectman, Andrea Vitrano, Brian Wissinger, Kim Littig
3. Old Business
 - a. Sanitarian – Town is offering free Radon Kits, there is also ARPA grant money for lead inspections. Trying to get covid testing site and flu clinics for the town as we head into flu season.
 - b. Social Services – Holiday festival was very successful, and the town received more than enough toy donations to help those in need. Received a grant for smoking cessation. Working with the school to provide those services. Also providing counseling services to the schools. Energy assistance remains constant providing services to many in the community. Working closely by providing guidance and assistance to the victims of the January 2nd fire.
 - c. Police – Raised \$3,500 for Special Olympics at the boot collection outside Dunkin Donuts. Prescription takeback collected 200lbs of medication. Two officers are being trained in Shotgun and 6 are attending rifle training in January. In December, police had an active shooter training at the middle school. Accreditation- first checkpoint will be in April and they are right on track. Calls for service: 947, traffic accidents 6, no DUI's, traffic stops 122, case reports 6, no burglaries, larcenies 2, and arrests 6.
 - d. Fire – 2422 calls for service only down about 50. Trinity in Stafford has not been handling the volume that was anticipated so we are still providing considerable mutual aid. There will be gaps on nights and

weekends when student volunteers go back to college. Wind storm on December 18th damaged an ambulance from a tree falling on it while responding to a call. It is currently out of commission. During January 2nd fire, some equipment was damaged or destroyed that will need replacing. Counselors and critical incident stress response teams were activated to provide support to all firefighters and will continue to be available as needed moving forward. Lastly, indicated that they respond to about 400 calls a year to the prisons.

- e. DPW – Winter ops is in full swing. There has been rain and wind events that have caused multiple trees down along with power lines. Flooding has occurred in the low lying areas that typically see flooding during rain events ie: Durkee and King Road.
- f. Schools – All three schools have provided extra support to students and staff in the wake of the tragic fire. There are a number of counseling services and support animals that have been available for all students that will continue to be available as needed.
- g. CERT – The tree lighting event was a success. CERT volunteers were activated to provide support in various ways. CERT was also activated during the December rain and wind storm to assist in taking calls and requests for service at the fire station while documenting activity in the State's WebEOC platform. February and March there will be certification and recerts. For CPR, AED and First Aid.

4. New Business

Tim Keeney – the BOS will begin weekly Budget presentations by the town's Directors. Applied for an environmental grant with DECD for the Somersville Mill site. Hope to move project forward to begin work on an 80 unit apartment building at the Mill. Lastly, thanked Chief Roache and his firefighters for the handling of the January 2nd fire. They did a great job responding and managing the situation.

Brian Wissinger – Indicated that an emergency appropriation can be made for damaged or destroyed equipment from the fire. The town is collecting monetary donations to an Angel Fund for the victims of the fire. Businesses are also contributing in many ways by making ornaments and t-shirts. Also, there are donations being made at the recycling center for gently used items coordinated by Kristina Owren.

a. General Discussion

5. Approval of December Minutes – Meeting cancelled – not enough members in attendance for a quorum.
6. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Todd Rolland and seconded by Dan Thayer. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 am.

Next meeting February 1, 2024