

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Rivers and Neuwirth

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Chief Robert Farmer – Blue Hills Fire District, Chief William Riley, Center Fire District, Pat Braun – EMS and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilors Seldon and Merritt

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015.

**POLICE**

The police department budget is on track with no issues or major expenditures to report.

Crime

There was an increase in crime 4% for the month of December and down 2% year to date. Also, it was noted that officer initiated activity continue to increase.

The Patrol Division will continue their focus on traffic, speed enforcement, DUI and unsafe driving. Most of this enforcement activity has been funded through state DOT grants.

There were no Internal Affairs or citizen complaint investigations.

In addition, there were no use of force incidents for the month of December. Only six complaints were received for the year and all reviewed to be in compliance.

CALEA - The department is currently completing year end reports and gathering proofs for 2016.

The department also completed their quarterly community survey, in which all comments were positive. Most of the citizen requested more information about town and police department programs.

Officer Wilkins, Community Service officer will be in charge of all social networking duties with the department website, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Officer Vuldalic conducted a successful Anti-Bullying campaign at the Hebrew Academy.

The Community Services Division and Police Explorers conducted a food drive for Thanksgiving at Stop & Shop supermarket.

### Personnel Updates

There were no retirements reported in the month of December 2015. However, there is a forecast retirement in February 2016. It was noted that 10 officers are eligible to retire in 2016.

On December 31, 2015, Officer Presley Stewart began his career at the Bloomfield Police Department. Mr. Stewart is an ex-Bloomfield native who recently began the police academy where is now Class Sergeant.

Officer Alicia Aldridge graduated from the police academy successfully. She is in Phase II of her Field Officer Training (FTO) and is doing very well.

Officer Jonathan Sykes successfully passed his FTO assignment and is currently in his probationary period with no issues to report.

There are no current opening at the police department. However, the department will continue to recruit and complete background investigations for Part Time Dispatcher and Entry Level Police Officer. There is a valid certified list of candidates available for hire.

On December 1, 2015, the department hired Tiffany Allison as the first Police Cadet in the program. There is one application pending for review. The department will continuously recruit for this position.

### EMS

The department reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ambulance engine is down. The Public Works department is working on streamlining a schedule for repairs.

## BVA

Mr. Pat Braun reported the BVA Fund is ahead of last year. He also commented on the breakdown of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ambulance. The repair is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000. Apparently, the Public Works department may have to contract this repair to the RFP bidding process.

## Council Comments

Councilor Neuwirth recommended more social events with Councilors and the police department to serve as an introduction for both parties. Also, he suggested promoting recruitment in churches for new officers the Police Cadets program.

Councilor Washington commented on the diversity process with citizenry of Bloomfield. He also noted the support on recruitment notices in local churches and synagogues.

Chief Paul Hammick stated that the department marketed open positions with local minority organizations and churches last year this time.

Councilor Rivers stated that the department can exceed goal hire figures and continue to improve affirmative action figures. He also suggested to be more proactive to get qualified people involved and continue to look at an employment base more like the town population.

Councilor Washington requested a status update of body cameras. Chief Hammick reported that this item was included in the 2016 capital budget proposal, in the amount of \$140,000. If approved, the mobile car cameras should be in place by September 2016.

The department received a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase a server to store data information for body cameras.

It was mentioned that the State of Connecticut may have possible grants available for purchasing equipment, however no parameters for the grant have been released.

## **FIRE**

### *Center Fire District*

Chief Riley reported that the department received 533 calls for service for past year. There were two major fires on 34 Jerome Avenue and Brabere Drive, along with other minor calls.

On January 10, 2016, there was dual response for a house fire on Cyrus Lane & Bloomfield Avenue.

Chief Riley reported that the department have recruited six junior auxiliary members between the ages of 15-17 years old. Of the six members recruited, 1 dropped out from the process, 1 moved to probationary Firefighter once they reached 18 years old and 4 remain active.

### Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported that the department received 525 calls for the year. Of those calls, major fire calls include 12 building and 11 other classified fires.

There were 45 calls received for the month of December 2015. There were two significant fires, one at Neligon's on Blue Hills Avenue, in which the fire was contained to a wood stove where wood is cured. The other fire was at the Mobile Gas Station on Blue Hills Avenue, where there was a car fire at the pump. Chief Farmer stated that both fire and police departments did a great job in managing the fire and containing the area.

Chief Farmer provided a narrative for the Homeland AFG grant. The requested grant amount is \$344,568 to replace 33 self-contained breathing apparatuses and acquire 45 face pieces. The overall goal of this project is to improve the fire ground operations and safety of the Blue Hills Fire Department.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.