

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

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington (entered at 6:55 p.m.), Neuwirth and Merritt

Also present were: Councilor Rivers, Chief Hammick, Officer Donald Moore, Chief Farmer, Pat Braun, Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilor Hypolite and Chief William Riley

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

**POLICE**

The police department remains on budget with overtime as projected. The department is fully staffed with 49 sworn police officers.

**Personnel Updates**

Officer Courtney Benitez received an offer of employment with the department. She will begin his employment on January 26, 2014. As a new police recruit, Officer Benitez will begin the police academy for training in March 2014. Lieutenant Mark Samsel is still on target for retirement on February 22, 2014. Chief Hammick noted that there are good candidates in the background process to fill this vacancy.

There are anticipated vacancies in July 2014 with two candidates in the background phase of investigation.

There were no citizen complaints for December 2013. The following details below outline the status of 8 citizen complaints received at the department for the year 2013:

- 2 sustained – officers received discipline
- 4 not sustained
- 1 unfounded
- 1 officer was exonerated

## **Crime**

- Crime is down 7% year to date and for three consecutive years crime has decreased throughout town.
- There was a 3% increase in dispatched calls, however officer initiated activities have also increased to 54%. In 2012, the department initiated 14,500 and in 2013 officers initiated 22,000 calls.
- Motor Vehicle accidents have increased to 8% this year and the enforcement activity is up 23%.
- Motor Vehicle enforcement was conducted on Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road in early December. Police reports indicate many rear ended accidents as well as illegal cross turns.

Councilor Merritt inquired about information regarding dangerous intersections, State of Connecticut – Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for state roads in town. Mr. Philip Schenck, Jr., Town Manager stated that he will research more identifying information regarding a program focused on road design from the State of Connecticut.

Councilor Merritt indicated that a draft design was completed a few years ago for the intersection of Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road. The status of this issue with the state is unknown. Mr. Schenck, Jr. will review the State of Connecticut – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) database, which list all projects by town.

## **Major Incidents**

A fatal motor vehicle accident occurred at Hall Boulevard and Maple Avenue. Councilor Rivers inquired about the amount of signage located at this location.

A serious motor vehicle accident occurred on Route 185 near the Tumblebrook Golf Course entrance.

A major copper theft of approximately \$10,000 – \$15,000 was discovered at the CL&P site on Hoskins Road. The investigation resulted in identifying two suspects, of which one confessed to the crime.

In December 2013, counterfeit bills were passed off in Tax Collector's Office. The department is interviewing all sixteen individuals who paid with cash for that month.

The Click It or Ticket It (seat belt enforcement) and completed a comprehensive DUI enforcement campaigns in December 2013.

The Citizen's Police Academy graduated 14 individuals on January 7, 2014. The program has been very successful and continues to gain positive feedback. It was noted that there will be no class in Spring 2014.

The Police Explorer's Post Academy focuses on youth in town. The recruitment will begin in schools over the next month. There are seven officers who have volunteered to be advisors for this program.

The department continues accreditation plans and has submitted another chapter of policies for approval in December 2013.

### **Community Services**

The department participated in the following community services activities below:

- Toy Drive with Bloomfield Social & Youth Services
- Safety Identity Theft and Fraud presentation Woodside Village
- The new K-9 named "Coda" will graduate next week and enter into the field

Councilor Merritt mentioned an individual that has a campaign against the Bloomfield Police Department on Facebook. They have posted pictures of someone alleging police brutality by an officer of the department. Councilor Merritt will forward all information regarding this issue to Chief Hammick for follow up.

### **FIRE**

Chief Farmer gave a brief report from the Blue Hills Avenue district. In 2013, the department responded 499 emergency calls. Approximately 62 calls, received mutual aid to the Bloomfield Center Fire district, Town of Windsor or any other surrounding towns. There was also 18 structure fire calls received, which results in any damage to the actual structure or building.

### **Personnel**

Blue Hills Fire District has 35 volunteer firefighters, 5 careers and 3 part timers. The 6 new members are also volunteers.

In April 2014, Chief Farmer will obtain the Fire Safety trailer from Hartford, cars for extraction demonstrations at Community Day. Staff will also display their equipment for the public.

Chief Farmer and several other staff will be attending trainings in Anniston, Alabama focusing on Homeland Security and New Mexico for chemical, biological and bomb training respectively. All of the trainings are free of charge.

## **EMS**

Officer Don Moore presented the call volume for the Bloomfield Volunteer ambulance. Approximately 145 calls for service exclusively for Bloomfield were made in December 2013.

### **Membership Updates**

2 volunteer were added to the roster

24 new members per year on average are added, several members will leave for permanent paid employment

In total, there are 70 volunteers on the roster for the program.

No AMR used last month for backup

Ongoing volunteer recruitment continues. The new EMT class began January 7, 2014. There were 31 individuals that paid for the class, however only 28 individuals were in attendance. The course is approximately 190 hours of training and has a fee of \$350.00 including books.

### **BVA Fund**

Mr. Pat Braun presented the meeting schedule for 2014. He also briefly discussed the EMT classes and the ongoing recruit for new volunteers.

Mr. Braun stated that the fund has made significant changes in their marketing strategies. The Fund does have funding to support future EMS trainings.

Councilor Neuwirth suggested increasing more public relations and marketing to the community.







