

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2014 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington and Joseph Merritt.

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent were: Councilors Joel Neuwirth and Wayne Hypolite, Chief Robert Farmer, Chief William Riley

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 3, 2014.

POLICE

The police department remains on track with the budget. There have been no unplanned expenses. Overtime is trending as projected and should balance back to original budget after required trainings are completed.

Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick stated that Sergeant Santo Pizzo retired from the department in September 2014.

In addition, the Chief also reminded the committee of the anticipated retirement of two officers and one sergeant effective January 1, 2015.

Chief Hammick recently hired two certified officers, Officer Michael McKenna and Officer Phil Serkosky who began their employment with the department on September 8, 2014. They are doing exceptionally well and are getting acquainted with the Bloomfield community and its needs. Both officers are currently in a brief field training of about 8-10 weeks in length. There

is no state mandatory requirement of certified officers to complete and be approved for field training.

Both recruits, Officer Courtney Benitez and Officer John Barrett graduated from the Police Academy in September 2014. They are currently in the Field Training stage for approximately 12 weeks. Thus far, both officers are performing as expected and are doing well.

Chief Hammick interviewed a certified officer, Sara Neslin from Bridgeport Police. Officer Neslin was offered a conditional employment with the department and is expected to begin on November 1, 2014. The filling of this vacancy will cap the department at its maximum approved sworn officers' ratio of 49.

The department received a certified list of non-certified candidates from the Human Resources for continued recruitment. Chief Hammick also informed the committee that he will be interviewing a Bloomfield resident who is a female and minority in the upcoming weeks.

Community Services

- The police department assisted in the logistical plan for the funeral services of fallen Hartford Firefighter Kevin L. Bell. Traffic services and coordination of crowd control went well. There were approximately 2,000 persons in attendance to honor this hero. Councilor Washington noted that officers were very courteous and attentive throughout.
- The department deployed MRAP (Military Resistant Personnel Carrier) to a residence in Granby with a gentleman in possession of 40 weapons. The Emergency Response Team and Crisis Negotiators were able to utilize this military grade equipment to resolve the situation effectively.
- On September 26, 2014, Chief Hammick attended a community conversation regarding the incidents which occurred in Ferguson, MO and its impact of communities across the country.
- On October 16, 2014, Chief Hammick and his supervisory staff will attend a law enforcement symposium at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). This conference is sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.
- The department will continue its efforts in developing a Community Satisfaction Survey.

- There was some brief discussions regarding body cameras for officers. There are several protocols, procedures and budgetary considerations that need to be reviewed in order to provide an accurate analysis of their potential use in the department. It was noted that all police cruisers are equipped with cameras.

Crime

- Crime is trending well but slightly up about 1%. There is a concern regarding burglaries in the east Blue Hills Avenue neighborhoods. The department does have a suspect responsible for these crimes.
- Traffic Enforcement is still underway in town. The State of Connecticut – Speeding Grant was completed on September 29, 2014. However, there is still a focus on cracking down on distracted drivers. Thus far, there have been 625 stops with warnings issued as well as re-educating drivers on state laws. In addition, the bicyclist population on Duncaster Road are being reminded of the proper use of the roadway when riding.

Most of the concentrated activity areas for enforcement are:

- Blue Hills Avenue
- Cottage Grove Road
- Woodland Avenue
- Park Avenue
- Duncaster Road

CALEA - Accreditation

Chief Hammick report that the department continues to move forward with the accreditation process. There were several additional policies that needed to be added for final review.

Emergency Operations Division

The department has completed the Department of Education on the new state mandated All Hazards School Plan with the Bloomfield Public Schools buildings. The department is currently performing a safety and threat assessment of town buildings as well.

As a part of the Heart Safe Initiative, the department will offer CPR classes in the community.

Training

Training initiatives are still underway within the police department. The department completed Use of Force, De-escalation and Crowd control trainings. They are also being very pro-active regarding public health concerns with Ebola precautions and treatment.

Councilor Washington inquired about how certified officer know the needs of the Bloomfield Police Department. Chief Hammick informed the committee of advertisement resources of various policing and minority organizations.

There was also a brief discussion ensued regarding recruitment, hiring and retirement packages of police personnel.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun reported that the last meeting of the EMS Committee was very well attended. The committee will have statistical information for review for the next meeting.

He informed the committee of a job well done by EMS personnel when called to his home on a personal medical call. He stated that personnel was very professional, consistent and care was outstanding.

EMS personnel also participated as an ice cream vendor at the Annual Sacred Heart “Car Cruise”.

The fund drive support letters were mailed on October 14, 2014.

For the past three months, the Ambulance Committee has been working diligently to provide an accurate report for the purchase of a new ambulance. Mr. Braun stated that the market for ambulances has changed significantly over the past four years since the last purchase. There are two vendors for consideration based on their location, delivery and quality of product. It was noted that the BVA Fund will purchase the ambulance with their private funds once again.

On a sad note, Mr. Braun informed the committee that former Fire Chief Arthur Gold recently lost his life from a long battle with cancer.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:25 p.m.