

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, and 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers and Washington

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

Absent were: Councilor Hypolite

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This item was deferred, no meeting in November 2015.

POLICE

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

Crime

There was an increase in crime 15% for the month of November and down 2% year to date. This increase can be attributed to car break-ins in town from a Hartford street youth gang across the Greater Hartford region.

The Patrol Division will continue their focus on traffic, speed enforcement and unsafe driving. Most of this enforcement activity has been funded through state DOT grants. Areas of focus will continue on Cottage Grove Road, Park Avenue, Tunxis Avenue, Maple and Brown streets.

There was one citizen complaint involving an officer on a private duty job. The complaint referenced a car accident on Mountain Avenue. An investigation was completed and all issues were justified as compliant.

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

Personnel Updates

There are currently 49 sworn police officers, total of 61 departmental personnel. There were no scheduled retirements in November.

Chief Hammick reported that there was one separation from service with Officer Sarah Neslin at the end of October. Officer Neslin failed to perform at an acceptable level during her probationary period.

The department recently recruited Mr. Presley Stewart. Mr. Stewart is an ex-Bloomfield native who is a Marine and currently working at the Department of Corrections. Chief Hammick extended an offer of conditional employment pending successful background investigations.

The department hired Ms. Tiffany Allison on December 1, 2015 as the first Police Cadet in the program. The department advertised for additional positions for the Police Cadet Program to local educational and vocational entities. The closing date for these applications was December 11, 2015. The department will continue open recruitment into Spring 2015.

CALEA

Chief Hammick reported that the department successfully completed the CALEA process. The Bloomfield Police Department received national advanced accreditation. There are only 4% of police departments in the nation to be accredited and only 1% advanced accreditation.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The department has plans to complete an upgrade of the current system monitoring mobile video in cars and the implementation of body cameras for officers.

Chief reports that the current public safety radio system has been evaluated and will be out of support services in 2015. During early 2016, an extensive review will take place with a consultant and in 2017 this system will be replaced, possibly phased in depending on required funding levels.

EMS

The department will review options for a Spring EMT class. It was reported that the engine is in need of repair for an older ambulance. The cost estimate for this repair is approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000.

BVA

Mr. Pat Braun reported that an updated letter will be sent to residents explaining the policy changes on collection fees from the client's insurance company.

There has been discussion regarding the use of credit cards as a form of payment for future EMT classes.

It was reported that the fund drive is doing very well.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief Riley reported on local structure fires and dual response with Blue Hills Fire District. He also informed the committee of his plans to lease radio equipment for 5 years for a more manageable system.

The district also participated in the Halloween Boo Bash sponsored by Social & Youth Services and Leisure Services in October 2015.

On December 5, 2015, Center Fire District participated in "Stuff the Engine" at Geissler's Supermarket. The department collected over 500 toys for this event. They also participated in "Fill the Boot" campaign to support Multiple Sclerosis.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported that his district received 500 calls year to date. He also reported the following major fires in the last two months located at:

- Mutual Aid collaboration with Windsor Fire Department on Marshall Phelps Road, Windsor
- Sutton Place – Beaman Brook
- Park Avenue – brush fire in front of Carmen Arace Middle School – a resident dumped ashes from fireplace.

Chief Farmer informed the committee that the department will apply for the Homeland AFG grant, which is due on January 8, 2015. This grant will fund the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatuses, in the amount of \$384,000 for 33 units. Letters were sent to Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy for support in receiving this grant.

The Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance & Blue Hills Fire will train in an EMR class together.

Chief Farmer also updated the committee on staffing levels:

- 5 paid full time firefighters
- 4 part time firefighters, including fire marshal
- 29 volunteer firefighters

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Washington to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.