

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Neuwirth and Hypolite

Also present were: Chief Paul Hammick, Chief Robert Farmer, Chief William Riley, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Councilor Merritt

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 10, 2014.

POLICE

The police department remains on budget thus far this third quarter. The overtime expenditures remain consistent with savings during this time of year.

Personnel Updates

A small congratulatory celebration was held for Lieutenant Mark Samsel who retired on February 21, 2014 and Officer Don Moore on March 7, 2014, respectively. Lieutenant Samsel's vacancy was filled by Officer Courtney Benitez, who will begin the Police Academy on March 21, 2014. In addition, the department is in the background phase of reviewing candidates to fill the vacancy of Officer Moore.

The four officers in training are continuing to make progress. Three officers have two weeks remaining in field training to be completed, and then they will be assigned to active patrol duty.

There was one citizen complaint made to the department that was not substantiated against an officer.

Crime

- Crime is has decreased 19% over the prior year.
- There was a major decrease in larcenies at the Copaco Shopping plaza. Most of the strategies initiated by police sergeants to combat this issue will be discussed.
- Four burglaries have been reported to the department over the past two months.
- There has been an increase of approximately 40% dispatched and officer initiated calls. A total of 700 more calls were received and initiated over the past year.
- There has also been an increase in motor vehicle accidents, due to inclement weather and snow piles in intersections reducing visibility.
- On March 2, 2014, there was a tractor trailer accident in the 1300 block of Blue Hills Avenue
- On February 11, 2014, the department executed a search and seizure warrant for the owner of Bloomfield Business Center. An outstanding warrant has been issued to business owner who resides in North Carolina. Two search warrants were issued for a storage facility located Enfield.

Community Services

- The department will continue to promote and build the “Police Explorers” program
- Sergeant Ellen White began March 10, 2014 at Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance to temporarily fill in the vacant position.
- It was noted that one ambulance (2005) is experiencing transmission issues. The department will review specs and finding

Councilor Neuwirth inquired about the procedure for retirement celebrations. It was noted that there was no formal policy; however a cake and light refreshments are purchased.

Councilor Neuwirth asked about the status of a formal complaint made by Mr. Terrance Bagley against the police department. Mr. Bagley has requested ALL information to be sent of complaint information.

Councilor Neuwirth asked for more detailed information regarding the Police Explorers program. There will be approximately 20 youth who can participate, all Bloomfield residents.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief William Riley reported that the district has resurrected the Junior Auxiliary Program. This program will be comprised of core group of 5-6 youth interested in becoming future firefighters.

Blue Hills Avenue District

Chief Robert Farmer announced that the district will host their 1st Annual Fire Safety & Education Day on April 12, 2014.

There were 54 calls received in February 2014. Four of those calls the district responded to involved kitchen fires and one basement fire on Farmstead Circle.

Chief Farmer reported that one firefighter completed all coursework for Firefighter I and certified with Hazmat Operational. They will begin their field training in the next few weeks.

On March 10, 2014, the department responded to Sav-Mor Plaza (red brick building) at 1051 Blue Hills Avenue to find major water leaks, building, Health and fire code violations. The landlord of the property has thirty days to rectify this issue. This is the third occasion in the last couple of years with issues at this property.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun, Chair of the Emergency Management Systems (EMS) Committee stated that the meeting was held on February 26, 2014. Chief Hammick attended the meeting along with Sergeant Ellen White, who will be temporarily assigned to the BVA.

There was a brief discussion of the FY 2014/2015 budget details.

Mr. Braun stated that there is no new status update regarding the BVA fund. The committee will discuss ambulance purchase options in the near future the fund's ability to help support the cost of approximately \$170,000.

EMT classes have been well attended (25 volunteers) since they began in January 2014. Approximately 3 or 4 individuals are in the testing phase since the completion of their class in December 2013.

Mr. Braun presented call volume statistics to the committee for review. There has been an increase of approximately 1,000 calls over the last five years.

The scheduled EMS committee meeting for March has been CANCELLED.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Hypolite mentioned a potential issue with overnight parking and asked the Chief to explore the town ordinance, history and current public safety implications. He also stated that police enforcement should be consistent within the town.

There are two issues with overnight parking bans:

- Snow parking bans
- Possible concerns of overnight parking of tractor trailer on streets near the Hartford/Bloomfield town line.

Chief Hammick will follow up regarding these concerns. Chief Hammick also stated that some officers on third shift are new to the department and are less seasoned and experienced when responding to calls.

ADJOURNMENT

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