

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

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2016 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington, Joseph Merritt, Joel Neuwirth and Leon Rivers

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

Absent were: Councilor Seldon

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 January 11, 2016.

**POLICE**

The police department remains on track with the budget. There have been no unplanned expenses. Overtime figures are trending as projected.

*Personnel Updates*

The department has a total of 61 employees of which, there are 49 budgeted sworn officers. However, the department currently has 46 sworn police officers.

Recruitment

- Lisa Weisbrich resigned her position on January 27, 2016.
- Sgt. Richard Bowen resigned his position on February 15, 2016.
- Steve Tonkin is scheduled to retire on March 18, 2016.

Officer Presley Stewart was hired on December 31, 2015 and is doing very well in the Police Academy.

Officer Alicia Aldrich completed her FTO training and will be assigned to her cruiser in approximately one week.

Chief Hammick reported that Mr. Graham Brone was interviewed and is currently being assessed in the required background and testing process.

Ms. Shimona Spears was hired as a Part Time Dispatcher for the department on March 7, 2016.

Chief Hammick also reported that the department is currently conducting background interviews for two potential police cadet applicants and police officer positions at the level of Sergeant and Detective. There are currently three candidates on the police officer recruitment listing, of which none are minority. Chief Hammick stated that he is actively seeking to lower the timeframe requirement on promotional advancements in negotiations with the collective bargaining agreements.

There were three citizen complaints for the month of February. All complaints were unfounded.

There was one use of force complaint for the month. This individual was reported to be emotionally disturbed, a total of three reported for the year.

### Crime

- Crime has increased in the past month by about 22%. Mostly, larcenies have been the contributing factors for this increase. In addition, the department has seen a rise in simple assaults at Bloomfield High School and Domestic Violence incidents.

Traffic Enforcement will be a continued focus for the department. The department has received a complaint for speeding on Filley Street with commercial vehicle traffic. Chief Hammick reported that a setup of enforcement did not reveal that there was an issue.

### CALEA - Accreditation

Chief Hammick report that the department is completing the 2015 year end reports and gathering 2016 proofs as a part of the accreditation process.

3 months evaluation period with State Police

All officers have been trained with using Narcan to interact with individuals using Heroin. There was one overdose reported in town, not serious.

Citizen Police Academy began on February 16, 2016. This group meeting is held every Tuesday from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. There are a total of 16 participants in the Academy.

It was reported that the department issued 13 pistol permits and impounded 14 dogs.

## BVA

On March 1, 2016, Spring EMT classes began. There are 18 students enrolled. BVA hosted several CPR classes in the community and refiled for Heart Safe Community recognition. The town doubled the location of AED in the community, as well as the amount of CPR certificates.

BVA also recruited four new volunteers since last month.

## FIRE

### Center Fire District

Chief Riley presented the incident report summary for year-end, January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015. There were a total of 533 calls received.

Volunteers have completed classroom hours for CPR and AED training.

The department received three new recruits. Chief Riley reiterated the level of commitment to the district and the field of public safety. All recruits stated that they were invested for enrollment into the Firefighter I class. There are proposed grant cuts from the State that will increase costs significantly. The class is currently \$800.00 and may increase by 50% or more.

### Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported that 55 calls were received for the month of February, which resulted in 58.6 manpower hours.

There were four major calls of response outside of the district to support the Town of Manchester. Mutual aid assistance was provided on South Elm Street and Buckland Hills Mall

Chief Farmer also reported that he has submitted four grants:

- \$346,000 grant for breathing apparatus, no response as of yet, hopefully the department will receive notification early summer
- *Safer Grant* application will be submitted on March 18, 2016, to hire 2 firefighters. The regular salary and benefits total \$280,000 for a 2 year period. This timeframe will allow the department adequate time to budget for these positions once the grant has ended.
- *Homeland Fire Prevention* – mid April opening - \$140,000 to obtain a trailer for training
- *Fireman's Funds* - \$10,000 for a thermal imaging camera

Blue Hills Fire District has 3 firefighter in Firefighter #2 class at the State Fire School, which should be completed in one month.

The arctic freeze in temperatures last month have the district very busy with frozen pipes and tree debris.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilor Merritt inquired about funding for body cameras prior to the new budget cycle beginning on July 1. If approved, the police department could move forward within 30 days for purchase. The initial outlay is estimated at \$139,000 and \$6,000 is needed for continued maintenance.

### **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun reported the BVA receive 1700-1900 calls per year.

The new policy for collectibles in revenue has increased significantly.

The new ambulance has been repaired with a new motor and is working perfect!

The new provision for Credit card usage when enrolling in EMT class has been very beneficial. Approximately 50% of enrollees used their credit card for this spring class.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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