

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2012 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Jacobs, Rivers and Banks. Also present were: Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department, Pat Braun – EMS, Chief William Riley – Center Fire District, Chief Robert Farmer – Blue Hills Fire District and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from April 9, 2012.

POLICE

The status of the Police Department is on track with the FY 2011/2012 operating budget. The department is 76% expended through their operating budget and trending well. Other divisions are down with regular salary and overtime.

On April 21, 2012, the department hosted a Child Safety Seat Clinic in conjunction with South Windsor Police Department at the Copaco Shopping Center. Approximately, 30 car seats were installed.

On April 26, 2012, the department demonstrated police car alarms for “Take your Sons & Daughters Work Day”.

On April 28, 2012, the department participated in the Annual Community Day at the University of Hartford.

On May 7, 2012, 20 participants graduated from the 2nd class of the Citizens Police Academy. The next class will begin in September, 2012. It was noted that consideration for another class may be given to Bloomfield High School students who are interested.

On May 11, 2012, Officer Tiesha Thomas made a presentation to members of the Bloomfield High School – PTO regarding prevention strategies for Teen Distracted Drivers.

Also on May 19, 2012, the department will support a Child Safety Fun Fair at Home Depot.

Bike Patrols will be visible during summer concerts on Thursdays and active on the weekends.

The department has also initiated its Facebook page containing information beneficial to residents.

Crime Report

Crime statistics are down 5% at year to date. Officer initiated activity has increased to 32% Calls into the police department continue to decrease, which is a positive development.

Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick has hired Mr. Steve Hydash as Captain for the Bloomfield Police Department. Mr. Hydash comes to the department as a veteran with 24 years of service from the Hartford Police Department and State Capitol Police. His official first day will be May 29, 2012.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief Riley of the Center Fire District and staff also participated at the University of Hartford – Community Day. The event was very successful and the department was well received.

On April 23, 2012, the department participated in an extraction drill with Blue Hills Fire District and EMS at the Drill Tower.

The district also diffused a hazmat incident in the kitchen at Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC), in conjunction with Capitol Region Hazmat Team, Bloomfield-West Hartford Health District and Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

Blue Hills District

On May 10, 2012, there was a Hazmat incident at Metacomet Elementary School, in which 21 children complained of symptoms. Approximately, 8 children were transported to the hospital for further evaluation. The district notified the Department of Energy & Environment Protection and UCONN Health Center. The cause of the incident was a mop bucket with cleaning chemicals and fumes that seeped into the ventilation system throughout the school.

Chief Farmer also reported that he received Hazmat equipment purchased from a grant that was applied.

He will also attend a Hazmat Materials Conference in Baltimore, MD for training on May 17, 2012.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun reported that the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) has received some new volunteers. Mrs. Margaret Ahearn expressed interested in volunteering with BVA. Mrs. Ahearn comes to the BVA with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

There will be an Advertising Campaign for next year to support continued recruiting efforts. A subcommittee was developed to evaluate advertising for new volunteers.

The collection rates for the ambulatory services have been somewhat of a challenge this fiscal year. Currently, \$450,000 has been collected with a projected budgeted amount of \$640,000. There is an issue regarding new federal reporting requirements of the Accounts Receivable collection process.

Chief Hammick and William Hogan, Director of Finance meet weekly to review collectibles received.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about the overall process of collections for these accounts.

The BVA Fund held their Annual Meeting on May 7, 2012. The fund approved \$2,000 for marketing of new EMT classes. They also approved \$20,000, \$5,000 per year for the next 4 years to support ongoing discussion regarding classes.

Currently, any new ambulances purchased by the Fund are donated to the Town. However, there has been some discussion to consider the possibility for the Town to become involved in the purchase process and the Fund would assist with funding for a new ambulance in the future. This proposed strategy would protect the Fund from losing money.

It was also reported that statistics were received from the 1st quarter. There was discussion regarding classes being developed with the Board of Education for high school students to get involved with EMS.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.