

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016 in Conference Room #2, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

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

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

Absent were: Councilor Derrick Seldon and Chief Paul Hammick

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 9, 2016.

POLICE

The police department remains on track with the budget. The department continues to manage overtime, however figures have been higher than expected due to vacancies in Patrol and dispatch.

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

Two officers have notified the department that they may be retiring soon. Both officers are pursuing employment in other agencies.

Recruits Presley Stewart and Graham Brown are doing very well in the Police Academy.

Candidate Jalisa Cuevas has passed all of the required mandated steps for police action. She may begin the Police Academy July 1, 2016 if there is an opening.

Candidate Jeneane Allin will join the department later this month.

Ms. Shimona Spears completed her training for Dispatcher on June 1, 2016. She will fill the full time dispatch position.

The department is currently conducting background investigation of non-certified and certified candidates for two vacancies.

Promotions were held in May. Mr. Shaun Gallant was promoted to Sergeant and Mr. Christopher Collins was promoted to Detective.

Crime

There were minor spikes in crime, but nothing major to report.

There was one citizen complaint in April, 2 thus far for year to date. All complaints were unfounded.

There were three incidents of use of force. All incidents were reviewed and determined to be within department policy and state standards.

Community Services

Patrol and Community Services have staffed the picket line at Niagara Bottling for the past three weeks.

There were two sex offender registry investigations. One warrant was completed and issued.

There were also ten car seat installations done in the past month.

Community Services personnel also assisted with 16 mediations and issued 3 juvenile summons at the middle school.

Body Cameras

The department completed testing and evaluation with Panasonic system. The back office solution was very well received. The department is waiting on information from the State Police to complete their report by July 1st.

BVA

BVA received a generous donation of \$18,000 along with the Town appropriating the remaining balance of approximately \$8,500. The department recently purchased a new power loader system for one of the ambulances. Installation will occur in the next 6-8 weeks.

The EMT class is near completion for the current session. All 19 students are scheduled to take the State practical exam on June 25, 2016.

The next EMT class is scheduled for September. The department is increasing advertising to Town residents and looking into possible incentives to have individuals attend the class and volunteer after they receive their certification.

Three new members joined BVA since last month.

All ambulances and fly car are scheduled to be inspected on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

The department has continued to see an increase in revenue as a result in the change of the format for billings and acceptance of credit cards for payment.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief William Riley reported that the district received a 4 year old used rescue truck. It will be equipped with all of the required equipment and supplies.

Chief Riley also reported that the district used vacant homes on Bloomfield Avenue to be demolished; to conduct several drills and fire scenarios (smoke generator).

It was noted that Center Fire District lost approximately \$90,000 due to motor vehicle tax cap implemented by the State of Connecticut.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported approximate 239 calls received for this year.

Overall, there were two structure fires in district.

The department assisted Manchester Fire Department with a condo and tractor trailer fires.

Last month, there was a wood stove fire on Woodland Avenue.

The Equipment and Safer grants still pending approval.

Blue Hills Fire District budget was significantly affected due to motor vehicle tax cap implemented from the State of Connecticut. The district lost approximately \$120,000.

This amount was reduced to \$68,000 by utilizing contingency funds, didn't raise taxes, remaining at .25%.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun reported that EMT classes will begin in September. The power loader project received an \$18,000 town supplement of combined efforts of the Police Department and the Town Manager's Office.

BVA participated for Celebrate Bloomfield with an informational booth at Sacred Heart Church.

The EMS Committee are still searching for a banquet site for the Bloomfield Ambulance 40th Reunion next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Washington asked about the procedure for disposing of dead animals. It was noted that a resident should notify dispatch and contact DPW or state depending on road jurisdiction. There is no weekend removal.

Councilor Rivers mentioned a noise complaint by a resident due to a function held at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course. The event concluded at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Councilor Washington inquired about the recruiting process in town. It was noted that there is an active list which is current for one year. The department currently have two police cadets that are both town residents.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:03 p.m.