

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2016 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington, Leon Rivers, Joseph Merritt

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: Councilors Derrick Seldon, Joel Neuwirth and Chief Paul Hammick

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016.

POLICE

The police department closed the budget year in the black. The department continues to manage overtime, however figures have been slightly higher than expected due to vacancies in Patrol and time off requests.

Personnel Updates

The department has a total of 61 employees of which, there are 49 budgeted sworn officers. However, the department currently has 47 sworn police officers.

Recruitment

Officer Gerald Thomas has submitted his intent to retire. Mr. Bill Jett ended his employment as of July 1, 2016.

Recruit Presley Stewart graduated from the Police Academy and is progressing on schedule with his field training.

Recruit Graham Brown continues to excel in the Police Academy. His anticipated graduation is scheduled for September 15, 2016.

Recruit Jalisa Cuevas began the Police Academy on July 1, 2016 and has adjusted well thus far.

Officer Jeanine Allin began her employment with the police department. She is currently in her field training and it is anticipated that the process will be expedited as she came to the department as a certified officer.

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

The department will continue to work in collaboration with the Human Resources department to fill the part-time dispatched position. A new entry level officer selection process will open for application submission beginning in June 2016 through August 2016. To date, 87 non-certified applicants applied.

Crime

There is an increase in larcenies within Town. This criminal activity is attributed to retail establishments enforcing their security measures, mostly at Lowe's, Home Depot, Burlington Coat Factory and Stop and Shop. In addition, the department has also seen an increase in assaults, relative to domestic violence incidents.

There was one citizen traffic complaint last month from the High Hill Road Association. They have requested a consultation regarding traffic concerns in the area. The association is considering asking the town for speed bumps and additional stop signs.

The Click it or Ticket It concluded in June. There were 37 enforcement actions during the campaign.

A new speed shield was purchased and has been placed online for use. This new equipment will allow the department to collect data on traffic and speed activity in designated areas of concern.

There was a decrease in motor vehicle stops for the past month, due to enforcement activity from the DUI grant initiative sponsored by the State of Connecticut.

There no incidents of use of force for the month of June.

Community Services

Due to staffing shortfalls, the Community Services Officer was assigned to work in patrol for five days. In addition, this officer was also assigned to assist in field training with Recruit Presley Stewart.

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

Community Services personnel also attended all JRB and community association meetings for the month.

Body Cameras

The department is in the test and evaluation period for WatchGuard. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the officers regarding this system.

CALEA Accreditation

The department has completed proofing for first year's reporting period as of June 2015 through June 2016. The department is progressing to the second year of proofing for the required 4 year reporting period.

Support Services

In the division of Support Services, it was report that 23 pistol permits were issued, 4 dogs impounded (1 adopted, 2 redeemed), 15 euthanized animals (12 feral rabid cats, 3 aggressive dogs).

BVA

The EMT class completion their session on June 19, 2016 and registration will begin for the fall EMT class, which is scheduled to begin on September 6, 2016. 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.

BVA is still awaiting parts for the stretcher for installation of the power loader into ambulance number 241.

Contracts with AMR are signed through 2019 for primary and secondary paramedics.

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

The department will reinstitute the Everbridge emergency notification system for Town wide notifications regarding emergency and other noteworthy events. This would give residents the options to have reverse 911 and opt-in with any cell phone carrier.

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. This unit should be online within the next two weeks.

Chief Riley also reported that the district had to curtail training at the vacant homes on Bloomfield Avenue and Jerome Avenue properties. The properties changed to a different developer. They will begin training again with theatrical smoke to train firefighters on search and recovery.

It was noted that Center Fire District received 254 calls for service during January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Farmer reported approximate 35 calls received for the month of June.

Overall, there was a structure fire at Touchpoints Nursing Home - 140 Park Avenue. This fire was deemed as arson. Chief Farmer commended the Police, Fire and EMS respondents for a job well done in evacuating over 20 patients. In addition, the Town of Windsor and Town of Manchester – 8th District also assisted in this effort.

There was a brush fire on Terryville Road. The department received assistance from the Center Fire District.

The department welcomed two new volunteer firefighters. One firefighter is currently employed for the City of Hartford – Fire Department and the other volunteer is a retiree from the City of Hartford.

The Equipment and Safer grants still pending approval.

Blue Hills Fire District will sponsor a 48 hour driver pump operator course for state certification.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun reported that EMT meeting will be held in September. Statistics for the year thus far will be reviewed and presented. It was noted that the fund closed the year on an increase in general donations.

The EMS Committee will have their 40th Anniversary Banquet on July 1, 2017 at Tower Ridge Country Club.

The committee began discussions regarding the purchase of the next ambulance, which is estimated to cost \$230,000 including the power loader.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Neuwirth inquired about coverage for union protesters at the construction site on Woodland Avenue. The department provided coverage on site for approximately three weeks, however the union decided to end protests due to conflicts over staging in an area under construction for utility installation.

Councilor Merritt inquired about officer feedback regarding wearing body cameras. It was noted that comfortability and logistics will vary for each officer.

Councilor Rivers inquired about the differences in range coverage for each camera. It was also noted that each vendors have their own marketing points, however the department is interested in a simultaneous upload from the camera to data storage and retrieval.

Councilor Washington inquired about available replacement after the retirement of Officer Gerald Thomas. There are several officers who are in position to fill in as a replacement. In addition, the department is actively recruiting for non-certified candidates and the application period remain open for certified candidates.

Captain Hajdasz mentioned that Police Cadet Tiffany Allison will be recommended for the next available slot in the Police Academy.

Councilor Merritt inquired about the response to a fire call at 330 Park Avenue. Mr. Schenck, Jr. explained that this alarm call was due to plumber repairs, resulting in smoke within the ventilation system.

Councilor Washington asked about recruitment for certified firefighters. Chief Farmer indicated that recruiting certified firefighters would provide a cost savings to the district relative to the completion of required trainings. The district will continue their marketing campaign for volunteers.

Both, Chief Riley and Chief Farmer indicated that the cost to recruit and train firefighters has increased significantly for the State of Connecticut. The average course length is 14 weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

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

