

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

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2013** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington and Banks. Also present were: Councilor Rivers, Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department, Chief William Riley – Center Fire District and Philip Schenck, Jr., Interim Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Chief Robert Farmer – Blue Hills Fire District

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

**POLICE**

Chief Hammick stated that the department closed out the FY 2012/2013 within budget. The department was also able to maintain their overall overtime budget, although the attrition caused a slight increase for minimum coverage obligations.

*Crime Report*

Crime is down 10% and 6% year-to-date by stabilizing burglaries and larcenies. Dispatch calls have increased by 15%. Officer initiated activity continues to be a positive attribute of the department and has increased by 57% from year to date. There have been approximately 9,600 calls for service year-to-date of proactive activity of officers.

*Personnel Updates*

On June 24, 2013, Officer Adrian Loignon passed his field training period and began full time work with the Bloomfield Police department. Ms. Chrystal Gibbs completed her field training and began full time work in dispatch. Ms. Heather Austin resigned from the department in June, 2013. Ms. Heather Hurley began part time employment in dispatch on June 15, 2013.

There are currently 6 police recruits in the department that have been assigned to various academies such as: New Britain, City of Hartford and Post Academy in Meriden.

On July 6, 2013, in conjunction with Human Resources and the Police department, an examination for Police Officer was given to over 300 applicants. Of the 300 candidates, 155 passed the written portion of the test. Oral boards will begin at the end of July and an Orientation/Open House will be scheduled in August 2013. The open house and orientation will consist of a tour of the building as well as a complete overview of the Bloomfield community.

Once staffing levels stabilized within the department, the Chief focused on an area of traffic safety initiatives. Some officers returned to duty to the Traffic Safety Unit, which was re-established to focus on promoting overall safety, school safety zones and neighborhood basic traffic concerns. There will be two qualified riders and 1 patrol motorcycle (2014 Harley Davidson - fully equipped) will be purchased at \$21,000. This cost will be paid out of savings from the FY 2012/2013 budget.

The bike patrols are also very well received during the summer months in the town center. Officers patrol the area of the town center/green on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

### Community Services

On June 2, 2013 the department participated in the Annual K-9 Suds event. The department received \$1,000 donation to the K-9 unit.

On June 4, 2013, the Citizens Police Academy graduated 16 participants. The upcoming class is scheduled to begin in September 2013.

On June 6, 2013, 16 officers participated and volunteered their time with the Special Olympics. This event increased morale and a sense of community within the department.

### **Discussion Regarding Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations**

Chief Hammick gave a brief description and background of the issues regarding electronic recording of custodial interrogations.

Attorney Romano sent an initial e-mail to Mayor Schulman expressing concerns regarding electronic recording. He stated the entire fleet of cruisers should be equipped to record once at a traffic stop.

Chief Hammick responded to Attorney Romano and informed him that all marked cruisers have been fully installed with visual and audio capabilities to record. In addition, the administrative vehicles (2 supervisors) are in the process of installation.

The Chief also stated that audio (lapel microphones) equipment have been purchased for the entire patrol unit with savings from the FY 2012/2013 budget. A departmental policy concerning these updates and changes was re-drafted and will be effective August 1, 2013 mandating all officers of official duties.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Connecticut General Statutes mandate all law enforcement to comply with audio and visual recordings of custodial interrogations. The Bloomfield Police department has been fully operational in this capacity since December, 2012. In regards to audio in the detention facility, an update or upgrade of the audio/visual system can be explored in the interest of the Town. A possible discussion regarding funding for these upgrades can be explored during the upcoming FY 2014/2015 budget cycle.

## **FIRE**

### *Center Fire District*

There were no major issues or concerns to report.

## **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun reported that the EMS Committee met to discuss statistics and trends for calls received by BVA. All calls are received through the local 9-1-1 system. Mr. Braun also submitted a spreadsheet outlining the Bloomfield EMS Activity Comparison Report Summary, referencing data from the BVA and AMR (see attached).

The next EMT class is scheduled to begin in September 2013. To date, there are 5 committed volunteers signed up for the fall class. The EMS Committee has been marketing through print and online media outlets. There have been some challenges in marketing through printed materials, due the distribution to reach everyone in the community. A letter mailer was distributed to solicit certified EMT professionals as well.

The last EMT class participants experienced some testing issues at the state level as well as associated cost to complete the test.

There are currently 50-60 volunteers on the active roster.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Banks, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.