

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a **SPECIAL** meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Tuesday, September 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilor Washington

Also present were: Chief Paul Hammick, Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council, Councilor Leon Rivers

Absent were: Councilors Hypolite, Neuwirth and Merritt and Chief Robert Farmer

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 14, 2014.

POLICE

The police department is on budget since the beginning of the fiscal year. Overtime is trending the same as in previous years, however must lower rate than year. During the summer months, overtime is increased due to vacation coverage and required trainings. The budget currently supports 48 sworn officers and civilian staff, totaling 61 personnel.

Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick reminded the committee of the anticipated retirement of Sergeant Santo Pizzo in September 2014.

In addition, the Chief was also notified by the following officers of their anticipated retirement for January 1, 2015:

- Officer Isaac Medina
- Sergeant Jose Martinez
- Officer Steve Tonkin

Chief Hammick informed the committee that he has hired two certified officers, Officer Michael McKenna (retired from Waterbury Police Department) and Phil Serkosky (retired from East Hartford Police Department). They will begin their employment with the department on September 8, 2014.

The two recruits in the police academy will graduate on September 17th and 18th respectively:

- Officer Courtney Benitez
- Officer John Barrett

On June 28, 2014, the written test was administered by Human Resources to non-certified candidates. Oral boards for qualified candidates will commence in the next two weeks.

The department received one Citizens Complaint for the month. The complaint involved an incident that occurred on School Street, still under investigation. It was also noted that there were no complaints regarding the use of force for the month of August.

Crime

- Crime is down 27% for the month of August 2014, year to date. Calls for service are down for this month compared to last year. There were 400 Officer initiated calls this month, which is an increase of 200 over prior year.
- There is a slight uptick in Motor Vehicle accidents. Most accidents are occurring in high traffic areas such as Cottage Grove Road/Blue Hills and Bloomfield Avenue.
- Traffic Enforcement is ongoing and will continue through September 29, 2014. The department received a Speed Grant from the State of Connecticut to monitor and enforce speeding in the community. Thus far, the following statistics have been detailed for excessive speeding:
 - 34 – Summons to Court
 - 96 – Infractions
 - 256 – Written Warnings
 - 62 – Verbal Warnings

Most of the concentrated activity areas in the following roads:

- Blue Hills Avenue
- Cottage Grove Road
- Filley Street
- Woodland Avenue
- Park Avenue
- Duncaster Road

These areas were selected based on accident data and complaints from local residents.

Community Services

Chief Hammick reported that the department has participated in the following community service events:

- On August 2, 2014, attended CHAP for Teens public presentation with community service officers. They also met with the Police Explorers for a training.
- On August 13, 2014, officers attended a Block Watch meeting in the community.
- On August 14th and 20th 2014, the department hosted an Open House to recruits who successfully passed the written test. Officers give these recruits a tour of the department and explain what Bloomfield has to occur.

- On August 23, 2014, officers participated at the Back to School Fun Fair event

September – Upcoming Events

On September 3rd and 17th, 2014 the Police Explorers will be training.

On September 10, 2014, the department will participate in a local Block Watch.

On September 20, 2014, officers will participate and attend the Open House – Lisa Lane Farm Celebration. The Police Explorer will also be present.

CALEA - Accreditation

Chief Hammick reported that the department has finalized the timeline for accreditation. All policies and procedures for the department have been updated and re-written in compliance with regulations. The department is currently in the process of complying proofs to show progress and compliance for each police standard. There will also be a mock assessment, in which a neighboring police department will review the department and share feedback of this process.

The department will apply for a final assessment with CALEA targeted for July 2015.

Emergency Operations Division

The department is working with the Department of Education on the new state mandated All Hazards School Plan with the Bloomfield Public Schools. The training session was completed for site security. The plan should be completed and submitted to the state by October 1, 2014.

Department Training Initiatives

Due to recent national events that have occurred in the past several months, the department extended training opportunities to officers in the areas of Use of Force (lethal and non-lethal), Best Practices in Crowd Control, Domestic Violence and Cultural Awareness.

On August 22, 2014 at Faith Congregational Church in Hartford, Chief Hammick mentioned that he attended a community conversation regarding the reactions to events in Ferguson, MO as well as to the recent taser incident in Hartford. There were approximately two dozen Bloomfield residents in attendance at the meeting.

Chaplain Program is underway with over a dozen churches and faith based organizations working with the department to assist in a community conversation within town regarding the use of force issue.

In addition, Chief Hammick contacted the CT State Police Association and the office of U. S. Senator Richard Blumenthal to inquire about the “1033 Program” – Military Grade assets. The department currently shares equipment with other law enforcement agencies in the Greater Hartford area.

Chief Hammick contacted Trinity College faculty to organize a community conversation regarding Urban & Community Policing as well as Use of Force.

The committee members ensued in a lengthy discussion regarding several topics listed below:

- Officer retention and recruitment
- Union contracts and pension requirements
- Composition of Oral Boards for hiring
- Departmental Trainings
- Police Explorers and Cadet Program
- Police Department Diversity regarding Hiring and Promotions

BVA

The Fall EMT class began on September 2, 2014. BVA received six new volunteers that joined the department this month.

It was noted that all three ambulances were offline in the past week due to mechanical issues with transmission, air conditioner and locking mechanisms in the rear of the vehicle. All issues have been resolved and maintained with the Public Works department.

FIRE

Chief Riley of the Center Fire District reported that on August 14, 2014, he met with the Insurance representative with ISO for town rating. The town maintained their current rating of 4/9. There is a split because the town does not have full water support services.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun reported that the Ambulance Committee is close to finalizing a package to various vendors for cost estimates in purchasing a new ambulance. It was also noted that there will be a 4 year cycle in purchasing ambulances going forward.

The BVA Fund Drive will be held in September 2014. The next meeting of the EMS Committee is scheduled for the third week in September.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.