

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2013** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

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

Absent was: Chief Robert Farmer

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Banks, seconded by Councilor Jacobs and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013.

POLICE

The police department budget is on track since the beginning of the new fiscal year 2013/2014.

Chief Hammick reported the crime has been flat for the calendar year thus far. The following crime statistics were presented for the month of August 2013:

- **1 Sex Assault**
- **5 Assaults**
- **10 Burglaries**
- **59 Larcenies (Car break-ins)**
- **1 DUI**
- **2 Auto Thefts**

There were a total of 68 arrests, 1200 dispatched calls, 1900 officer-initiated activities

The detective unit has 6 arrest warrants that are forthcoming. These warrants will be issued in connection with the metal thefts in town.

On August 22, 2013, there was a break in at Radio Shack in the Copaco plaza. The department may have identified suspects within the immediate tri-state area.

There have also been several car break-ins in the central and western areas of town. Police have arrested two individuals, in addition to three search warrants.

The town continues to have issues with burglaries in commercial and residential locations. In the month of August, there were 10 burglaries reported. Police have increased extra patrols in these concentrated areas of concern, Tunxis, Woodford and Beatrice Avenues.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about the level of staffing within the department. The department is currently fully staffed with 49 sworn officers. There are currently six recruits in the academy. However, in the next 12-18 months, 15 officers are eligible to retire. The budget line item for overtime should not likely increase while actively pursuing new recruits for the department.

Personnel Updates

The department is fully staffed of 49 sworn police officers for the first time since Chief Hammick tenure began.

In conjunction with the Human Resources department, the Police department has been actively recruiting for vacancies. There were 152 police candidates who were scheduled for oral interviews from August 13, 2013 through August 22, 2013.

On September 11, 2013 the department will graduate Officer Kyle Sandberg and Officer Henry Rodriguez from the police academy.

There were 4 additional new recruits who began training at Meriden Post Academy, two officers are in training in New Britain and 2 officers is currently in the field training program, Officer Adrian Loignon and Officer Michael DiManno.

On July 15, 2013, Ms. Heather Hurley, part-time dispatcher completed her 3 month training program.

The department has begun renovations of the Dispatch Center with new consoles and ergonomic seating. They will also conduct an assessment of the radio system with Police, Fire, Public Works and EMS.

Community Services

On August 24, 2013 the department participated in the "Back to School Fun Fair" event at 330 Park Avenue. Officers gave out Child ID kits and gave an overview of police services in the town.

Chief Hammick also reported that the K-9 dog "Moxie" passed away from heart complications, which was diagnosed in the last 6-8 months. Chief Hammick expressed that 2 officers were interested in the position to be in the K-9 unit.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief Riley reported that the district received a call from Town Hall regarding odors and fumes from the janitorial closet. A female janitor was overcome with fumes that caused eye and throat irritation. The

department ventilated the vestibule area and researched the possible causes for the fumes. It may have been a possibility that the janitor grabbed the wrong mop with floor stripper based and mixed with other cleaners in a mop bucket. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were available for review in the janitorial closet. It was determined that all products used were compatible.

EMS

There were 40 individuals signed up for the EMT class that began on September 4, 2013, of which 12 individuals gave their deposit in advance. Only 10 individuals showed for the first class, which is very low attendance for seeking volunteer support for ambulance services.

The average target number of volunteers for EMT classes should be approximately 21-25 individuals. The turnover and attrition rate of relatively high due to the required testing and length of commitment for completion (6 months).

The EMS Committee and the Police Department will possibly consider marketing deposits for recruitment efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Rivers inquired about School Resource Officers (SRO) for the elementary schools. Chief Hammick stated that no discussions have been formalized with the Board of Education regarding the need for SRO's in the elementary schools. There have been limited discussions with the Administration from the Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC) about the cost and time allotment for an officer to be placed there.

Councilor Washington asked if an analysis has been completed to determine if security is need in the elementary schools and the response from Chief Hammick was no.

Councilor Washington also inquired about the number required personnel for the Detective Unit at the police department. Chief Hammick stated that there are a total of 4 full time positions in the Detective Unit. Three of the positions have been mandated and classified as full time under the Collective Bargaining Unit. The fourth position is handpicked by the Chief for various special assignments as needed.

The minimum requirement to be eligible to increase in rank is five years.

Councilor Washington asked the Chief to follow up with Human Resources to identify Bloomfield officers who are residents of the town.

ADJOURNMENT

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