BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2019 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Kenneth McClary, David Mann, Joseph Merritt and Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown

Also present were: Philip Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Chief William Riley – Bloomfield Center Fire, Chief Willie Jones – Blue Hills Fire, Councilor Kevin Gough and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilors Jennifer Marshall-Nealy and Elizabeth Waterhouse, Pat Braun, EMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The subcommittee received the following updates and status reports from:

POLICE

The police department’s FY 2019/2020 budget is on track with no unexpected expenditures to date in each division.

Personnel Updates

The department has a total of 61 employees, budgeted for 49 sworn officers, fully staffed. Chief Hammick noted that Sergeant Ellen White will retire on September 27, 2019. The Human Resources department is recruiting and is currently testing candidates for BVA Coordinator.

Recruits Gina Vlake and Alex Santemorena completed all stages of their Field Training program.

Recruit Brian Beecham is currently at the police academy.

Chief Hammick anticipates a promotional opportunity following the retirement of Sgt. White in September. Human Resources is conducting the testing process.

Crime

Captain Hammick reported crime increased 30% during the month of July and down 16% year to date. It was noted that there has been an increase in larcenies (66 total for the month of July), as opposed to 46 year to date. Most of the larcenies occurred at Lowe’s with multiple shoplifting incidents. There was an increase in calls dispatched for the month, approximately 3,391 calls for service, compared to last year at 2,924 calls. It was noted that officer initiated calls have increased 1% year to date.

Chief Hammick briefly discussed some details of the incident that occurred at Home Depot property on July 13, 2019. A cow escaped from the nearby slaughter house, SABA located on Granby Street. Both suspects were arrested for this incident.
On August 7, 2019, there was a second incident, the building of SABA was spray painted with the phrase “Cease the needless slaughter” and “Muslims go home”. The Police Department is currently investigating this incident. It was noted that the business owners are not cooperating, and not interested in pursuing the investigation.

There have been protests at SABA, and a vigil scheduled for this evening at Town Hall. The department will continue to monitor the situation and provide information.

On August 6, 2019, the Police Department experienced temporary interruption in 911 service at the Police Department. There was an accident involving a dump truck and utility wires at the intersection of Park Avenue and Bestor Lane.

The supervisor followed department procedures in notifying communications supervisor and taking the necessary steps to reroute 911 calls to our designated back-up dispatch station at the Windsor Police Department. This is the standard protocol during any temporary interruptions in 911 services.

**East Wintonbury Parking Issues**

The department has conducted extra attention to parking issues on East Wintonbury. Chief Hammick has contacted the State of Connecticut to place no parking signs on the right of way portion of the roadway and is awaiting action from the State. The State did install no parking signs on both the north and south sides of Old Windsor Road just east of its intersection with Blue Hills Avenue.

The department has also identified the property owner of 1146 Blue Hills Avenue, located on the corner of Blue Hills Avenue and East Wintonbury Avenue. This owner was unaware of commercial vehicles parking on the side of the roadway and/or potentially on his property causing issues. He gave the town permission to place temporary signs on his property, depending on the outcome or course of action taken by the State.

**Blue Hills Accident Data**

This data report outlines statistics from January 1, 2019 – July 11, 2019.

During this time frame listed above, a total of 61 motor vehicle accidents occurred on Blue Hills Avenue (North) between Cottage Grove Road and Sav-Mor Plaza (1055 Blue Hills Avenue). Of the 61 motor vehicle accidents, 53 were intersection related, which involved two vehicles and only 1 accident involved three vehicles. One accident involved a pedestrian and another involved a bicycle.

Out of the 61 motor vehicle accidents, enforcement action was taken for 48 accidents. Failure to drive a Reasonable Distance Apart was the contributing factor in 23% of the accidents followed by Failure to Grant Right of Way at Intersection/Driveway with 17%.

**Professional Standards**

*Use of Force* – There were three incidents involving the use of force this reporting period, 12 incidents from year to date. Officers used force to restrain in EDP that was being transported for committal.

All reviewed and found to be in compliance with department policies and state statute.
BVA - Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance

Sergeant Ellen White will retire on September 27, 2019. The recruitment period for the BVA Coordinator position just closed.

The EMT class began on April 25, 2019. It was noted that nine students took the State Practical Exam. Essentially, 7 of the 9 passed at various stages. BVA may have obtained 3 volunteers in the process.

The Emergency Operations Plan is nearing completion. It will be submitted to the Town Manager for comment and review.

Councilor Merritt expressed concerns about possibly regionalizing 911 service.

Councilor McClary inquired about communications to the public about the temporary 911 service interruption.

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown thanked the Chief and his staff for sending officers to cover the protest incident at SABA.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief William Riley reported 312 calls for service statistics until the end of July.

Chief Riley reported that the Center Fire District participated in a trench rescue at 31 Brentwood Drive. The district called in the Urban Search and Rescue Regional Team as well as other regional support to assist.

This incident is currently being investigated by OSHA for potential violations.

Chief Riley also informed the subcommittee that the Foam Incident at Bradley International Airport is being reviewed and investigated. Both districts are reviewing their inventory forms that have been submitted.

Councilor Mann inquired about the level of concentration of foam being 3-6% range as approved by the U.S. Forestry Unit and is used as a wetting agent. He also asked about the safety of storing this volatile substance.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported 53 calls for service in the month of July and 301 calls for year to date. There was a 15% decrease since last year. Most of the calls involved hazardous condition with motor vehicle accidents and false alarms.

Chief Jones also reported that the department completed their Internship Program with Bloomfield High School students.

He also noted that Firefighters have successfully completed their Firefighter I class.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

There were no other public safety concerns.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no quorum to approve the minutes of July 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Mann to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.