There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2019 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilor Kevin Gough, Chair, Deputy Mayor David Mann, Councilors Stephanie Calhoun, Joseph Merritt and Danielle Wong

Also present were: Robert E. Smith, Town Manager, Police Chief Paul Hammick, Chief William Riley – Bloomfield Center Fire, Chief Willie Jones – Blue Hills Fire, Pat Braun - EMS Committee and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

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 and currently at 47. Chief Hammick announced that Officer Erik Markiewicz resigned from the department. He was hired by the Town of Middlebury. His last day was December 23, 2019.

Police Officer Gabriel Catania and Kara Klimasvewski were hired and began employment the beginning of January 2020. Officer Catania entered the Police Academy on January 9, 2020. Officer Klimasvewski will begin the Police Academy on March or April.

Crime

Captain Hammick reported crime decreased 2% during the month of December and down 17% year to date. There was a decrease in calls dispatched for the month, approximately 2,875 calls for service, compared to last year at 3,035 calls. It was noted that officer initiated calls have decreased 5% year to date.

Officers issued 265 Town ordinance parking cases were generated and a total of 231 parking tickets were issued during the month of December.

Traffic Concerns

- Phoenix Crossing - There were 7 Town ordinance parking cases generated. A total of 90 property checks were conducted. Most of the “No Parking” signs have been destroyed, making it difficult to take enforcement action without them.

- Mills Lane - There were 6 motor vehicle stops conducted during December.
Brown Street - The Speed Shield was deployed on December 19, 2019 for two weeks. The statistics as of December 29, 2019 indicate the following: The posted speed limit in the area for both northbound and southbound traffic is 25 mph. A total of 11,310 motor vehicles traveled northbound on Brown Street with an average speed of 33 mph. The results indicated that 14% (1,501) of motor vehicles traveled at a speed of 25 mph or less, 44.42% (5,024) of motor vehicles traveled at a speed of 34 mph or less, 40.09% (4,535) of motor vehicles traveled at a speed of 44 mph or less.

In addition, there were 66 motor vehicle accidents, 150 motor vehicle stops and 9 DUI arrests.

**Professional Standards**

*Use of Force* – There were three involving the use of force this reporting period, 27 incidents from year to date. In the two of the cases, officers used a restraint technique to assist ambulance personnel in committing an emotionally disturbed person. In the final case an arrested person was restrained while being handcuffed.

All reviewed and found to be in compliance with department policies and state statute.

**Internal Affairs**

There was one open internal affairs case. The officer is deployed on military leave and the case will resume now that he has returned. There have been a total of 10 total citizen complaints for 2019.

**BVA - Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance**

There were two volunteers who recently joined BVA. One of them recently was a graduate from the last EMT class.

The new ambulance has been ordered and delivery is approximately 4-5 months. The cost of the ambulance ($210,000) is covered by the generosity of residents and businesses in Town.

The call response/volume has increased since the civilian Coordinator has begun responding to calls versus having two paramedics on board the primary ambulance and no fly car coverage.

The proposed Tax Abatement Ordinance which will increase the abatement from $1000 to $1500 along with recognizing volunteers who have provided at least twenty five years of service to the Town is moving forward and will hopefully be presented to the Town Council on the near future.

In an effort to increase membership and maintain the volunteers that are currently serving, BVA will focus efforts on recruitment and retention over the next several months. The department will continue to recruit at organizations who teach EMT classes as well as local hospitals and others who employ EMT’s and solicit volunteers.

The department will also offer different types of training to current volunteers to that they continue to keep their skills sharpened and they will also be exposed to other topics in the EMT field.

BVA is scheduled to provide CPR Refresher classes to Public Works employees in February.
Discussion regarding the Gunshot Incident at Copaco Shopping Center

Chief Hammick reported that an incident occurred on December 29, 2019, in which the Police Department received multiple 911 calls reported gun shot fired in the parking lot in front of Stop & Shop, 313 Cottage Grove Road. There were two males involved in a verbal altercation inside the store. As they exited and got in to their vehicles, the suspect fired several shots into a parked vehicle that the victim was in, then fled the scene in a gray Toyota Corolla.

At this point in the investigation, the victim will not identify the assailant. However, the department will continue to pursue evidence to get a warrant.

There ensued a discussion about the recent violent incidents in the Town.

Councilor Wong inquired about the Violence Interrupters Program and asked if there is a need to address proactive response for gun violence?

Chief Hammick provided the shooting data of surrounding suburban communities, Bloomfield had a total of 3 incidents of Aggravated Assault with Firearm.

The department will continue to monitor and reiterated that communication is the best plan, to inform residents that there is no relevant gun violence issues.

Deputy Mayor Mann commented on historical data as educational to residents. He also inquired about the tax abatement - draft ordinance to Town Manager for Fire & BVA.

Councilor Calhoun inquired about blue light software/hardware cost for possible winter snow advisory parking. The town currently has no mass parking areas to send cars to - will review and consider with Public Works.

Discussion regarding the Armed Robbery at Stop & Go Convenience Store

There were 3 armed robberies in Town on the following dates:
- November 24, 2019 - Valero Gas Station
- November 29, 2019 - Valero Gas Station
- January 6, 2020 - Stop & Go on Blue Hills

The department is currently working with the Windsor Police Department reviewing evidence and video surveillance of similar crimes in their Town.

Discussion and Possible Action on Creating a Coventry Street “Calming” Plan

Councilor Gough inquired about reviewing specific streets of concern with speeding and reckless driving complaints. The Police and Public Works departments can offer suggestions on developing a street “calming” plan to address these concerns.

It was noted that it may be more helpful to identify one street and model a solution to address this issue.

Councilor Merritt suggested looking at Prospect Street to start this analysis.
Deputy Mayor Mann commented on having an active demonstration of street calming over a committed specific period of time. Councilor Wong inquired about the process to identify the area the Council would start. It was noted also that speed bumps can have difficulties for fire engines, ambulance and snow plows.

Councilor Gough suggested identifying 2-3 roads as a demonstration for data gathering and what can be done.

**Review and Discussion of Restrictions on Parking on Lawns**

The subcommittee discussed the issues regarding restrictions on parking on lawns. A resident can park their registered vehicles can park on their lawns. There is no ordinance or zoning regulations about any restrictions.

Other towns have a “hard surface” requirement for parking on lawns. Councilor Wong stated that can have a negative impact on residents financially who can’t afford to install hard surfaces.

**FIRE**

*Center Fire District*

Chief William Riley reported 552 calls for service statistics through year end. The department participated in the Torchlight Parade with other local fire departments.

On December 14, 2019, Successful Breakfast w/ Santa - Toys and $1200 gifts for older children

Deputy Mayor Mann - most frequent calls - smoke detector and battery issues, more education to owner?

*Blue Hills Fire District*

Chief Willie Jones reported 504 calls for service total through year end. There was a 10-12% decrease for year to date. Most of the calls involved hazardous condition

There were no significant injuries or deaths with fire fighters or citizens.

There will be a Volunteer Recruitment Open House held in March or April 2020.

New Members are currently enrolled in Fire Fighter I class.

Councilor Calhoun asked about the minimum threshold on scene or total for volunteers. Currently, there are 30 active volunteers on the list.

**EMS Report**

There was no report at this time.

**OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS**
There were no additional public safety concerns discussed.

**Discussion on Start Time for Meetings**

The subcommittee agreed that the start time of 6:30 p.m. remains the best timeframe. Special agenda items that require an extensive time for discussion will generate a special meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. **Councilor Rickford Kirton** inquired about police communications to residents when significant crimes occur within the community. He suggested the utilization of social media platform on what is taking place.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilor Mann, seconded by Councilor Wong to approve the minutes from December 9, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Wong to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.