BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

Present were: Deputy Mayor Gregory Davis, Councilors Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Kenneth McClary and Shamar Mahon

Also present were: Police Chief Paul Hammick, Fire Chief Willie Jones, Fire Chief William Riley, Lou Blumenfeld, Chair – EMS Committee and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The subcommittee received the following updates and status reports from:

POLICE

Crime Statistics

Chief Hammick reported a 39% increase in crime statistics during the month of March. The following categories list details of the crime stats for March:

- Homicide (0)
- Sexual Assaults (2) – One past tense, the other currently being investigated by the Detective Division
- Robbery (1) – Mar. 29@ 4pm- Home Depot. This was a shoplifting case that the suspect used force to push the store security and flee the location. The use of force qualifies this as a robbery.
- Aggravated Assaults (0) - This category excludes simple assaults or simple disturbances.
- Burglary (4)
  - 1051 Blue Hills Avenue - Dollar General (Mar. 20th) - The suspects stole approximately $100 dollars in merchandise.
  - 12 Capewell Drive (Mar 1st) - suspect was stealing items from a home that recently suffered fire damage. We made an arrest in the case.
  - Regency Drive (ASA Credit Union) (Mar 25th) - ASA Credit Union, unknown suspect pried the front door and stole a small amount of cash from desks and a small safe.
  - 376 Cottage Grove Rd (Mar 6th) - relative of the property owner stole a generator and snowblower from the property.
- Larceny (53) – Significant increase in shoplifting at Copaco Plaza
- Auto Theft (1)
  - Vehicle parked and running @ Mobil Station, 985 Blue Hills Avenue. Keys in car and stolen car recovered later. Off Wilkins issued a warrant for an arrest.
**Personnel Updates**

The department has a total of 61 employees, budgeted for 49 sworn officers and currently at 45. The department continues actively recruit sworn personnel during the recruitment process. An officer resigned 2 weeks ago before a disciplinary hearing.

Chief Hammick also reported that there is one part time Dispatcher position vacant. The latest recruitment and testing process was not successful. 26 applicants and 6 successful. We are conducting background investigations at this time.

**Hiring**

Chief Hammick reported that there are three recruits are in the Police Academy. Two are expected to graduate in May 2022 and one in June 2022.

**Promotion**

Daigle Law Group was hired by Human Resources to conduct testing for Sergeant and Detective positions. Currently, the department has a certified list for the position of Sergeant. The Chief will conduct interviews and consult with the Town Manager prior to promotion.

**Traffic Calming/ Enforcement:**

- Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA) - 25, 22 Priv. Prop MVA
- Motor Vehicle Stops - 409
- Motor Vehicle Details - 440
- Motor Vehicle Complaint - 23
- Driving while Influenced (DWI) - 2

The highest percentage of Motor Vehicle Accidents are in the location of: Blue Hills Avenue, Cottage Grove and Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road.

**Traffic Complaints/Traffic Details:**

- Prospect Street – 25 details, 20 stops
- Woodland Avenue – 64 details, 17 stops
- Maple Avenue – 53 details, 37 stops
- Brown Street – 35 details, 27 stops
- Tyler Street – 19 details, 2 stops
- School Street – 64 details, 31 stops

**Current Target Areas:**

- Daniel Boulevard
- Brookline Avenue
- Prospect Avenue
- Woodland Avenue
- Maple Avenue
- Brown Street
**CHR Clinician**

The CHR Clinician worked 15 shifts for the month of March. She has assisted and followed up on with several cases at the Police Department, as well as and coordinated with local medical and mental health facilities. She has reported on several success stories of people reaching out for, and being connected to mental health services, and word spreading in the community about our efforts.

There were two significant achievements in getting mental health services to frequent callers to Town Hall and the Police Department.

Currently, the clinician is on maternity leave and the department will be assigned new clinician for the summer months. The regular clinician will return in the fall.

**Internal Affairs**

There were no citizen complaints for the month of March. However, there was an internal complaint against an employee that led to separation from the organization.

**Use of Force**

There were three incidents during the month of March:

- Officers were requested by family for a report of a female in a mental health crisis and off her medication. Officers located the woman and used a minimal amount of force to restrain her until she was transported to the hospital for medical evaluation. A review of this case determined that the force used was appropriate and in compliance with BPD policies and procedures.

- Officers were requested at a group home for a patient suffering a mental health crisis. The subject was violent and uncooperative, officers used minimal force to restrain his arms, carry him down stairs and secure him to a stretcher for medical transport. A review of this case determined that the force used was appropriate and in compliance with BPD policies and procedures.

- Officers responded to a report of a missing 16 year old juvenile who was believed to be having a mental health crisis. Officers found the subject later in the afternoon and she became violent and combative when officers approached. She was restrained and handcuffed prior to being secured on a stretcher for transport and evaluation. This use of force occurred on March 30, 2022 and is under review.

**BVA**

Chief Hammick reported the following updates regarding the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance:

- Call volume and revenues have increased over the past couple of months. Revenue is always several months behind billing based upon reimbursements from insurance companies as well as Medicare and Medicaid.

- We have conducted CPR Refresher classes for a couple businesses in Town and will provide CPR training to all Bloomfield Public Works employees tomorrow on April 12, 2022.
- BVA will provide an ambulance/first aid coverage at the Trap Rock race at Penwood Park next weekend as well as several other walk-a-thon events occurring in Town over the next month.

- Unfortunately, due to lack of enrollment, the EMT class has been canceled. We may host a class in the fall and hope to find students at that time. (The canceled class was scheduled for Saturdays through the summer so that may have been part of the issue however we were limited to that day of the week based upon the instructor’s availability)

- BVA is hosting an EMR refresher for BPD employees as well as members of the University of Hartford Public Safety and Meriden PD next week.

- We have continued to offer in person monthly training to BVA members and have increased our attendance by offering a buffet style meal ahead of training that is prepared by BVA Member and Retired BPD Lieutenant Dan Rosenthal. This has continued to foster friendship among the volunteers.

Discussion

Deputy Mayor Davis inquired about the uptick in larcenies, over 56% over prior year. He also asked about the last recruitment, out of 26 applicants, 4 eliminated and 3 applicants being reviewed.

In addition, Deputy Mayor Davis asked town staff about any remedial action(s) available for traffic calming on targeted streets. It was noted that speed bumps will be installed by Public works in April on these streets.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief William Riley reported 36 calls for service statistics for the month of March 2022, with total end of March were 97 calls for service. Most calls were unintentional activations involving smoke detectors. Center Fire responded to three dual response calls during the month of March.

Chief Riley also reported that the district’s Annual Budget meeting was postponed to May 10, 2022. They are awaiting information on tax aid under the State of Connecticut, 29 mils cap, how much reimbursement coming to the Town. Chief Riley noted some other concerns with Capital Improvement Project, roof replacement.

They also participated in trainings with “Back to the Basics”, Ladders, High rise situations and water line/hoses.

Discussion

Deputy Mayor Davis inquired about the anticipated cost for the roof replacement. The cost estimate is approximately $375,000. The district may consider 50% repair this budget year and 50% the next. The budget must be approved by mid-May.

Councilor Mahon asked if there were any other larger costs or projects upcoming in the next fiscal year. Chief Riley reported that the architect was selected for the “Feasibility Study” for an evaluation of Comp. #3 Firehouse.
Blue Hills Fire Department

Chief Willie Jones reported for the month of March there were 43 calls for service. Mainly, unintentional alarm activations due to malfunctions, cooking, accidental activations, fluid spills due to motor vehicle accident and accident with injuries. There was a structure fire at Dent Wizard, 100 Granby Street that involved some of the structure and a small amount of chemicals stored in the building, where the fire was stopped by crews with limited damage to structure and no injuries.

The department also responded to a fire at Pepperidge Farms on Blue Hills Avenue that involved a storage tent and chemicals (Sulfuric Acid), where we allowed the chemicals to burn off before the Fire Department extinguished it. This fire caused a huge environmental clean-up, which resulted in the HazMat Contractor being called on site. No injuries were reported, and the Fire Marshal will investigate. The year-to-date calls total 120.

Projects

As for projects for this month, the department is busy going over construction managers’ bids and interviews for much-needed in-house renovations at Station 1. After listening to the bids and project costs, the department decided to put the renovation on hold until more funding can be secured. They did get approval for the Electronic Message Board Sign for Station 1, and the work should be starting on that very soon.

Training

Training Officer is bringing in different Town departments heads to speak to our Firefighters about what their positions and roles are, and how they may be able to assist each other if needed. Several buildings in Town have been walked through to familiarize Firefighters with in case of emergencies. The department still have several firefighters that are taking classes for their Firefighter 1 and Q2 driving classes and in the final steps of receiving certificates.

(CERT) Community Emergency Response Team

Several members have completed the CERT training and received certificates.

Community Involvement

The Blue Hills Fire Department is actively meeting every other week via zoom with town officials, churches and representatives from Windsor in planning a Juneteenth Jubilee Parade and a Community Day.

Discussion

Deputy Mayor Davis asked for more specifics regarding Station 1 renovations. The following renovations are:
- Enlarge Radio Communication Room
- Driveway in front of the building
- New Meeting Room
A Citizen Training Program will offer CPR/AED recertification in the fall at Blue Hills and winter at Center Fire.

EMS

Mr. Lou Blumenfeld, Chair of the EMS Committee expressed concerns regarding the lack of interest/participation with the EMT recruitment efforts. He noted that there is a new EMT course being offered. He thanked the Council for approving funding for two part-time EMT in the FY 2023 Budget.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

There were no other public safety concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor McClary and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor McClary and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.