BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting.

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

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

Absent was: Councilor Kenneth McClary

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 51% increase in crime statistics during the month of May. The following categories list details of the crime stats for May:

- Homicide (0)
- Sexual Assaults (0)
- Robbery (1) – Attempted theft of cart full of copper wire at Home Depot. The woman struggled with store staff and fled the scene.
- Aggravated Assaults (0) - This category excludes simple assaults or simple disturbances.
- Burglary (0)
- Larceny (52) – Significant increase in shoplifting at Copaco Plaza
- Auto Theft (0)

Personnel Updates

The department has 61 employees, budgeted for 49 sworn officers and currently at 45. The department will continue to actively recruit for sworn personnel during the recruitment process. Officer Chesworth graduated the Police Academy. Chief offered an entry-level police officer position to a candidate pending successful completion of State mandated requirements.

Hiring

Chief Hammick also reported that he hired Katia Reynolds to fill the part-time Dispatcher vacancy.
**Promotion**

Officer Robert Wilkins was promoted to the rank of Sergeant last month.

**Traffic Calming/ Enforcement:**

**Traffic Complaints/Targeted Details:**

- Prospect Street – 8 details
- Woodland Avenue – 37 details
- Maple Avenue – 39 details
- Brown Street – 26 details
- Brookline Avenue – 10 details
- Packard Street – 19 details
- School Street – 40 details
- Wintonbury Avenue – 17 details

**Current Target Areas:**

- Pine Grove Road
- Brookline Avenue
- Prospect Avenue
- Woodland Avenue
- Burr Road
- Park Avenue

**CHR Clinician**

CHR successfully received grant funding to raise our clinician to full-time status. We will be one of the first communities in CT to have a full-time CHR Clinician imbedded within the Police Department.

**Internal Affairs**

There were no citizen complaints for the month of May.

**Use of Force**

There were two incidents during the month of May:

• On May 15th, officers responded to a school in town on a report of a student walking off school grounds. The student was experiencing emotional distress and was attempting to walk into the roadway into the path of a school bus. Officers restrained the student to prevent him from harming himself. A review of this case determined that the force used was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with State standards and BPD policies and procedures. The student was referred for services.

• On May 18th, officers responded to a Domestic Disturbance and upon placing a suspect under arrest, he began trying to bang his head against the cruiser. Officers used hand controls and a takedown to prevent the arrestee from harming himself. He was then secured on a stretcher and transported for
mental health evaluation. There were no injuries as a result of the force used by officers. A review of this case determined that the force used both reasonable and necessary and in compliance with State standards and BPD policies and procedures.

**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 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.

- The part-time EMT positions have been posted for next fiscal year.

**Discussion**

Deputy Mayor Davis inquired about traffic calming measures and the installation of speed bumps on several town streets. Chief Hammick stated that the Traffic Calming Committee met and approved Elizabeth Avenue as one of the trial streets for speed bump installation.

He also asked if there is enough steady workflow for full time hours with the CHR Clinician.

Deputy Mayor asked if there is a computerize tracking system for noise violations. The Police Department has a recording system of all complaints through the dispatch management system.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown is excited about CHR as a provider to increase to full time. She also expressed gratitude to the Police Department’s response to a motor vehicle accident on Cottage Grove Road. Officers were very empathetic, compassionate and caring.

Councilor Mahon inquired about sworn officer personnel shortage and its impacts on the department. He also asked Chief about marketing and advertising for vacancies.

**FIRE**

*Center Fire District*

Chief William Riley reported 44 calls for service (April) and 38 calls (May) statistics, with total end of May were 179 calls for service. Most calls were unintentional activations involving smoke detectors, motor vehicle with fluids and accidental fire alarms.

Chief Riley also reported that on April 14th, the district responded to a motor vehicle accident of a large tree branch fell injuring three horses as well. The horses had to be put down due to injuries. On April 27th, firefighters
had some difficulty responding to a confined space extradition (ductwork hiding) suspect wanted with an active police warrant on Westview Drive, 600 Apartments.

**Blue Hills Fire Department**

Chief Willie Jones reported for the month of April there were 44 calls for service, no major incidents, mainly unintentional alarm activations, cooking, accidental activations, fluid spills due to motor vehicle accident and accident with injuries. There were several motor vehicles with inquiries at April’s end, combined there was total of 164 calls.

For the month of May, there were 52 calls for service; no major incidents mainly alarm malfunctions and unintentional alarm activations due to cooking and motor vehicle accident with fluid spill and injuries. The department did respond to 1333 Blue Hills Avenue for a motor vehicle accident (car vs. bus), which proved to be fatal. At May’s end, there were 216 calls.

**Projects**

As for projects for this month, we are in the final phase for the Electronic Message Board being install in front of Station 1 at 1021 Blue Hills Avenue.

**Training**

Training Officer

**(CERT) Community Emergency Response Team**

Several members have completed the CERT training and received certificates. The department is looking forward to starting community training soon.

**Community Involvement**

The Blue Hills Fire Department participated in the Bloomfield Memorial Day Parade and was invited to do traffic control for the Bloomfield Public School Harmony Concert that was held on June 2, 2022, at the Carmen Arace Middle School. The department is also 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 on June 18th and June 19th.

**EMS**

Mr. Lou Blumenfeld, Chair of the EMS Committee reported that the Committee met on May 9th and are excited about the two new part-time EMT positions for BVA.

**OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS**

There were no other public safety concerns.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

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