



## **Public Safety Commission**

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### **Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

*Town Hall, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, Mass, 01301*

*Phone: 413-772-1560 Fax: 413-772-1519*

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**23 AUGUST 2015**

The Public Safety Committee met at the Greenfield Fire Department at 5:00 PM.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Butch Hawkins, and Commissioners Adam Provost, Gary Longley, Skip White, and Frederick Clark

A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Deputy Chief Williams, Chief Strahan, Danielle Marie, Danielle West, Phil Wartel, Greenfield Dispatcher Mark Lavin, and several Greenfield Fire Department employees

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Proper notice had been posted.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner White moved to approve the meeting minutes for the 26<sup>th</sup> as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Provost. Commissioner Longley abstained from voting. All in favor, the motion passed.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Hawkins gave his thanks to the town's Public Safety departments for their role in the successful handling of the Factory Hollow accident commended them for how well they have been dealing with the generally high call volume this month.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX UPDATE:**

Chairman Hawkins reported that he had concluded the touring of the possible building sites on Main Street and has asked Dennis Ross (Architect) to submit a proposal. In addition, he met with Lane Kelly for assistance with obtaining money for the project at the state level, and with Robin Provost of Mowry & Y

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

Commissioner Longley informed the committee of a letter from a Shelburne Road resident who was concerned that Ted Burrell's dog may be returned to him.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2015-1 REMOTE PARTICIPATION:** As a result of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, Mayor Martin has announced that remote participation in all board and commission meetings so that volunteers are able to participate if they are unable to be physically present at those meetings.

#### **POLICE SERGEANT APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Chief Haigh asked that the Commission to recommend to the Mayor the appointment of James Rode and Jason Haskins to the open Sergeant positions in accordance with the results of the assessment center. Commissioner White moved to accept the request, seconded by Longley. All in favor, the motion passed. Commissioner Longley mentioned that he was very pleased with the fact that the results of the assessment center actually confirmed the Police Department's initial placements for Sergeant. Commissioner Clark added that he was looking forward to implementing the process again in the future and thanked everyone involved.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Haigh reported that the department had officially hired Officer Jeffrey Soto and that Officer Scott West would be returning from military leave beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Officer McDowell will also be returning from the Academy in the near future. He mentioned that while the department's budget remains tight, numbers are still right on track for just about breaking even at the end of the fiscal year, due in part to the new 4-2 schedule and the utilization of OIC's in place of Sergeant overtime. He explained that the new schedule also leaves room for unexpected instances like Factory Hollow and the overtime that accompany them.

#### FIRE:

- Chief Strahan began by commending his staff for their performance at the Factory Hollow accident and their careful handling of the HAZMAT materials. He reported that all aspects of the budget were expended at 25% or less and noted that Firefighter Diefendorf had returned from his FMLA leave. In addition, Firefighters Ragoza and Caldron are attending the recruit program at the MA Fire Academy. He mentioned that incident plans have been developed for both the County Fair and Wornstown. Commissioner Longley inquired as to whether or not the new fire codes which affected many vendors at the fair were state wide and Strahan confirmed that they were. He mentioned that they are working on trying to change the codes but needed to comply in the interim and had developed guidelines for doing so. The department utilized its capital with the purchase of new SBCA face pieces. Strahan noted that liquor and entertainment establishment inspections were under way, the Safer Grant had been submitted, and that the smoke detector and CO for seniors program was in progress. The department also received a 2006 Jayco 28' trailer from the Department of Conservation and Forestry. When he mentioned the completion of the high school construction, Commissioner Longley inquired as to whether or not any evacuation procedures had been established. Chief Strahan replied that they were still in progress but that the radios at the school should already be complete.

#### EMS:

- EMS reported 239 responses; 90% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 17 times and provided 21 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 29 times; 3 were for Greenfield Fire. Ms. West noted that they had seemed to receive an increase of mutual aid requests from the Northfield and Orange areas. She also mentioned that they were making an effort to change their role in community events by becoming more active in ensuring the safety of participants. Specifically, she reported that they would like to offer water to those who are running or cycling.

#### DISPATCH:

-No new news to report.

#### SAFETY CONCERNS AT FACTORY HOLLOW:

-Commissioner Longley expressed his concern over the signage currently being used near Factory Hollow. All committee members agreed that a request should be made to the State on behalf of the town to improve safety in the area either through the utilization of lighted signs, caution lights, a more substantial barrier, or rumble strips. Chief Strahan noted that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is aware of the issues revolving around the area and is also considering increased signage. Chairman Hawkins expressed that he had reached out to the DPW but had yet to receive a response. Commissioner Longley also suggested that the town conduct

another traffic study, as the last one on record was in 1964, in an effort to evaluate effectiveness of the current placement of signage and traffic lights.

**OPEN FLOOR:**

-Greenfield Dispatcher Mark Lavin asked the Commission what their plan was in the event that Dispatch experiences a situation where there is only one person working an overnight shift. Chairman Hawkins replied that it was his understanding that staffing plans were the responsibility of the department head, and he hoped there were already plans in place should such a situation occur.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-None

Commissioner Longley suggested a special meeting be held to review Capital Requests for each department on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Police Station.

Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:53 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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