



Public Safety Commission

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Town Hall, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, Mass, 01301 Phone: 413-772-1560 Fax: 413-772-1519

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

27 JANUARY 2016

The Public Safety Committee met at the Greenfield Police Department meeting room at 5:00 PM.

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

A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Chief Strahan, Danielle West

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Proper notice had been posted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Longley moved to approve the meeting minutes for the 2nd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor, the motion passed. Commissioner Clark moved to approve the special meeting minutes for the 6th as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Longley. All in favor, the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX WORKING GROUP:

Chairman Hawkins reported that a tour of the UMass facility had occurred on January 4th, and that a tour had also been taken in the Northampton facility. The next scheduled tour will be held on February 18th. In addition, there is talk about a plot plan for the new site.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

An email was received from the Mayor regarding a complaint from a citizen about a civil infraction he received a warning for. Deputy Chief Williams said he would follow up. An email was also received which provided a link to human rights training that a concerned citizen wanted to recommend for the Police Department. Chairman Metaxes of the Human Rights council has asked to meet about his recommendations to the Mayor and plans to attend the February meeting.

MANDATED TRAINING (ALL DEPARTMENTS):

Discussion took place regarding each department's mandated training. Both Chiefs highlighted specific training which pertained to impartiality and sensitivity which are required of all department employees. Documentation of these trainings and all other mandatory and voluntary training was provided to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE:

-Chief Strahan noted several noteworthy fires ranging from 1st to 3rd alarm and commended his staff on their handling of them. He reported on the continuing need for repairs to the current station and the affect it has had on the budget, but was happy to report that the station's new air compressor has allowed for the inclusion of a laundry room. He also mentioned that significant repairs were needed on 4 of the department's apparatuses. The ambulance has billed \$141,000 from October 14 to present and is doing well collecting those funds. Discussion took place about the department's call force, which is currently operating with only 8 people (where an ideal staffing level is 18 to 20).

POLICE:

-Chief Haigh announced the hire of Officer Patrick Merrigan, who is scheduled to complete the Field Training program by the end of January and able work on his own beginning in February. The FY17 budget is still under review. Even with the \$56,000 cut to the General Overtime budget coming into FY16, the 34 officer staff and 4-2 schedule have allowed for only 40% of the Overtime budget to be expelled thus far, which is possible to sustain as long as staffing remains at its current level. In general, the current budget is being expended at a level that reflects the amount of time that has passed in the fiscal year and remains steady. The department is currently operating with only 12 cruisers, down from 18 last year. New cruisers are scheduled to arrive in February are sorely needed. Chief Haigh also took a moment to recognize his civilian staff and read aloud a letter highlighting their achievements and value to the department.

EMS:

- EMS reported 291 responses; 93.5% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 9 times and provided 6 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 23 times; 1 was for Greenfield Fire. Ms. West reported that they had recently remodeled their dispatch center. She also mentioned that they had created new floating positions which have helped significantly in terms of overtime costs.

DISPATCH:

-Chief Haigh announced that the Dispatch department is now utilizing two grants in order to help with overtime and training costs. There were two new full time hires: Valeri Stein and Kyle Kendall, both of whom are scheduled to begin work in the beginning of February. Required training for all departmental employees in under way and will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

OPEN FLOOR:

-Commissioner Clark commented on his recent experience with the Police department during his SALT meeting, where collaboration between officers and members resulted in helpful information about what is needed to efficiently respond to emergency situations for seniors who are living on their own.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-None

Chairman Hawkins moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:58 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at the Greenfield Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk