



## **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**

**26 OCTOBER 2016**

The Public Safety Committee met at the Greenfield Police Department Meeting Room at 5:00 PM.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Hawkins and Commissioners Longley, Clark, and White.

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**

N/A

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

-Commissioner Hawkins thanked everyone involved in the Main Street and Bank Row incident and praised the Police Department's work in handling the situation. He also noted the excellent work by the Fire Department in knocking down the fire on Federal Street.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

-Pacheco Ross met with SVE Surveyors, Chiefs Haigh and Strahan, Mayor Martin and Robyn Provost at 10:00 am on October 11<sup>th</sup> to view the site and ask questions. The meeting was then moved to GCC for brainstorming about logistics. Primary concerns arose regarding whether or not there would be street to street access and if there would be enough space for all of the department and employee vehicles. By the end of the day a basic design concept was drafted. The site as it is without an expansion does not allow for EMS and a build out cost would be very difficult to recoup in 20 years. Because of this, the Town has requested only a Police and Fire configuration, and have estimated completion of the initial draft in 30 days.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

-None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **FIRE:**

-Chief Strahan addressed the Meridian Street fire and praised first responders for their hard work and dedication during the tragic event. He explained that as a result of the fire, the Department will be working in conjunction with the Red Cross to distribute and install smoke detectors while educating citizens about their importance. Commissioner Longley asked whether it was true that the initial call was routed to Northampton. Strahan confirmed, noting that NextGen is currently working on this issue and the department should be able to take cell phone calls within the next 6 months. He noted that it did not affect response time, as the transfer takes only

moments. Commissioner Longley also inquired as to whether or not the home on Meridian Street was equipped with detectors or if they were functioning to which Strahan responded that the investigation was still ongoing. Chief stated that the Fair had been a success this year and also mentioned that the entire Department had a photo taken to mirror a replica from 1908. He noted the retirement of Deputy Chief Jarvis sometime between now and July.

#### POLICE:

-Chief Haigh explained the budget was not currently healthy, with Overtime being the main concern and expenses being very tight. Commissioner Longley asked if the department was lacking in manpower. Haigh responded that they weren't, but that three Officers who had applied for FMLA due to the birth of a baby along scheduled vacations and general absences left many openings. He praised the department's continued hard work. He also stated that Parking Enforcement now has 5 employees, one of whom is now full time, and that the department is functioning smoothly.

#### EMS:

- Over the course of July and August, Ms. West reported 489 responses, 95.96% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 50 times. MedCare responded to Mutual Aid requests 10 times and intercepted other ambulances 39 times, 7 of which were for Greenfield Fire. Ambulances were on standby at the Green River Festival in July and the town's Triathlon. In addition, Ms. West noted that MedCare worked with GCC's EMT class in August.

#### DISPATCH:

-Chief Haigh reported that one employee will complete her training on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and another in December. He also noted that a 9<sup>th</sup> dispatcher began training today and a 10<sup>th</sup> was hired with a December start date which will bring the department to full staffing levels. He also noted the promotion of dispatcher Nicholas Licata, whom he says is doing very well in his new position as Dispatch Supervisor. He did state that the budget was in very poor shape as understaffing has created weekly open shifts.

#### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION:

-After some discussion, Commissioner Longley moved to recommend an annual review of those employees in Executive positions and that during those reviews, compensation be considered in accordance with department pay scale and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor, the motion passed.

#### OPEN FLOOR:

-Commissioner Longley addressed his personal concerns regarding the age and reliability of the town's current gas underground infrastructure, stating it is between 85 and 100 years old. He recalled that Berkshire Gas had intended to provide the town with a plan to modernize and suggested that the Commission inquire with the DPW to find out if any progress has been made with that plan. Chief Strahan responded by saying that he works closely with the DPW about this issue and he insisted that they are in fact addressing it, nothing that a lot of the breaks were pipes no longer in use and that most of the recent problems arose from things that weren't addressed in the past. He concluded that he would invite Don Ouilette from the DPW to a meeting so that he could discuss both the improvements and the plan to control the situation in more detail.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-The Commission has received a citizen complaint which will deal with complaints of Police department personnel: C30A s21 (a) (1) Open Meeting Law. Commissioner Longley motioned to end Open Session, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor, the motion passed. Open Session ended at 6:05 pm. Commissioner Longley motioned to begin Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 6:06 pm. Commissioner Provost motioned to end Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Longley. All in favor, the motion passed. Executive Session ended at 6:26

pm. Commissioner Longley motioned to begin Open Session, seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor, the motion passed. Open Session began again at 6:27 pm.

Commissioner Provost moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:29 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Police Department Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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