



## **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**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING**

**21 JANUARY 2015**

The Public Safety Committee met at the Greenfield Police Department meeting room at 4:30 PM.

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

A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Chief Strahan, Deputy Fire Chief Ed Jarvis, Deputy Police Chief Mark Williams, Dispatch Manager Danielle Marie

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Proper notice had been posted.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

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

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **DISPATCH:**

-Dispatch Manager Danielle Marie presented her budget to the Commission. There were some questions about the lack of a decrease in overtime despite the budget representing the department at full staffing, but Ms. Marie explained that one of the employees she filled a Full Time slot with was previously a per diem dispatcher, meaning she must now offer overtime at the higher rate to that employee. She also explained that many of her staff have reached their most senior pay scales and time accruals, meaning there will be more overtime at a very expensive rate to fill in general.

-Commissioner Longley motioned to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor, the motion passes.

#### **FIRE:**

-Chief Strahan presented his capital plan, which had already been sent to the Capital Committee. Commissioner Longley motioned to approve the proposal as presented. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passes.

-Chief Strahan presented his budget to the Commission. There was discussion regarding the ideal staffing level and Chief Strahan reported that he would like to see a minimum of 5 with a preference of 7 firefighters per shift. Commissioner Clark inquired about how Greenfield measures up to other Fire Departments with populations that were comparable in size. Both Commissioner Longley and Chief Strahan demonstrated that there are too many factors to consider to be able to answer that with complete accuracy.

-Chief Strahan noted that his training line item would no longer be included in his general overtime, but rather broken out separately. There was discussion about what training would occur during FY16 for both firefighters and supervisors.

-There was discussion regarding the Ambulance budget and Chief Strahan explained that because it was still in its beginning stages it was not possible to furnish a separate budget for the coming Fiscal Year. He did however provide estimates regarding the costs and revenue associated with it. He agreed that going forward he would furnish a separate budget for this item.

-Commissioner Longley motioned to recommend to the Mayor that all capital item purchases, whether or not they are leased, be part of the capital budget process and separate from the operating budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor, the motion passes.

-Commissioner Clark motioned to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hawkins. All in favor, the motion passes.

#### **POLICE:**

-Chief Haigh presented his budget to the Commission. There was discussion about what changes had been made to the Detective Bureau, as well as how many patrol officers are currently on staff versus how many there would be in an ideal situation. Chief Haigh reported there will be 33 active officers by July of 2015 with 2 in the Academy. He noted that 40 would be more efficient, but considerably more expensive.

-Chairman Hawkins asked about the possibility of the resurrection of the K-9 Grant. Chief Haigh explained that while we technically do not qualify, he spoke with program coordinators directly and was told that should there be any extra funding after the grants had been awarded, we could be considered for those funds.

-Commissioner White motioned to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hawkins. All in favor, the motion passes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **POLICE:**

-Chief Haigh brought to light that he would like to discuss a possible change to the current Promotional Policy at next week's meeting as there were time sensitive elements to the process, should we do so. The Commission agreed to review the policy in depth at the next regular meeting.

**OPEN FLOOR:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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