



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

29 JULY 2015

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 Gary Longley, Adam Provost, Skip White, and Frederick Clark

A quorum was present.

Also present: Deputy Chief Williams, Chief Strahan, Danielle Marie, Danielle West, Mayor William Martin, Steve Chase, Sara Guidaboni

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 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor, the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

OLD BUSINESS

SAFETY COMPLEX WORKING GROUP:

-No new news to report; next meeting may happen next week or the following, depending on schedules.

POLICE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS:

-Deputy Chief Williams reports that all candidates have passed the written portion of the exam and were currently testing in the scenario portion. Discussions transpired regarding when the oral interview portion of the exam would take place. The Commission decided to hold two special meetings for this purpose on Tuesday August 4th and Wednesday August 5th, beginning at 4:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

-Commissioner Longley shared a citizen's concern regarding increased speeding on Silver Street and read a letter to the Editor regarding the usefulness of the roundabout in front of GCC that the Commission was involved in constructing.

EMS:

- EMS reported 264 responses; 92% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 17 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 9 times; 3 were for Greenfield Fire. Ms. West also noted that additional staffing had been approved, including overnights, and there would be an additional 1 to 2 trucks in operation per day. Commissioner Longley wondered whether the decrease in mutual aid was a result of more staffing on statewide level and Ms. West confirmed that. Chairman Hawkins asked about how staffing is determined. Ms. West explained that staffing levels are based on "trend analysis", which is based historical data over the previous 6 months, with a focus on the distance traveled, the day of the week, and the time of the call.

FIRE:

-Chief Strahan reported that the operating budget currently has 88% remaining, which is a result of paying some of the larger, annual bills upfront. He also noted a \$9,000 surplus from last year's budget. The Fire Department as well as Dispatch employees participated in an impromptu drill in a vacant home on July 23rd. Michael Mancini was hired to the Call Force. Work is still being done on IMC and IT issues continue to be addressed. There were some damages to Engine 5 and car 3 totaling \$7,000. The station is still being updated to inspection standards. Recall has entered another phase, with the new response time goal at between 3 and 5 minutes where it had previously been between 20 and 25. Non-compliant radios will be replaced this month.

POLICE:

-Deputy Chief Williams commended the work ethic of Officer Megan Gilbert after her unfortunate mishap with a sinkhole, and reported the he and Chief Haigh had personally visited the citizens who came to her aide to thank them for their heroic actions. He also noted outstanding police work associated with the incident that occurred at the Days Inn after an anonymous caller claimed he had created a dangerous hostage situation. He announced the retirement of Officer Kelson Ting. He noted that overtime was high but is expected to slow with the new 4-2 schedule. Additionally, the downtown office is nearly complete; a ribbon cutting ceremony is to be held next month.

DISPATCH:

-Ms. Marie reported that overtime was currently being expended at a rate of \$2,000 per week. She noted 21 open shifts in the month of August. She noted that they are no longer at emergency staffing levels. The department is still engaging in contract negotiations. The phone lines are finally in working order and there have been no further complaints regarding the issue.

OPEN FLOOR:

-Discussion: Citizens and current Dispatch employees Steve Chase and Sara Guidaboni attended the meeting in order to gain clarification regarding the discussed changes to their department. Mr. Chase's concerns centered around the job security of current employees and the complications that could arise from the privatization of a public service. Ms. Guidaboni was most interested in gaining as much information as she could, stating that the department had received very little to date. Mayor Martin informed them that these changes would be part of a larger overhaul because constant improvement is required, but that very serious consideration will be given to employees, cost, efficiency and location before any decisions are made. He explained that both their Supervisor and their Union officials had been given all of the information they had obtained thus far and that the town is still in the process of gathering some of the other items that were requested by the Union. He urged them to look to these two entities as resources as the investigative process continues. Chairman Hawkins noted that the current facilities are in need of updating and mentioned the possibility of a new Public Safety Complex. He stated that all areas of Public Safety would be undergoing at least some change if and when that move occurs. He added that the goal of both the new Complex and any changes that accompanied it was to aide the town in regionalizing and growth. Commissioner Longley noted that the idea of the Department being separated was a change as well, and recommended that they try and think about the idea of more changes as a potentially positive thing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Chairman Hawkins moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Longley. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:06 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26th at the Greenfield Police Department meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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