



## **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**

#### **2 DECEMBER 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 Skip White, Gary Longley and Frederick Clark

A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Chief Strahan

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner White moved to approve the special meeting minutes for the 28<sup>th</sup> as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Clark and Longley. All in favor, the motion passed. Commissioner Longley moved to approve the meeting minutes for the 5<sup>th</sup> as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Clark and White. All in favor, the motion passed.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX WORKING GROUP:**

Chairman Hawkins reported that the tours of possible Complex site on Main Street had been conducted and Architect Dennis Ross has submitted a proposal. A meeting was held, where both his goals and the town's goals were outlined. Additional resources included requests to town officials for information regarding state level funding assistance and discussions with local business owners regarding site demolition costs. He invited both Chiefs to attend a FRCOG event on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the transportation center where the USDA would be providing information about available grant funds. Longley moved that the Commission recommend that the proposed Complex site be focused toward the West end of Main Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor, the motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **FIRE:**

-Chief Strahan reported that the department's budget is in good condition, with balances either on target or above expectations. He noted several out of town fires at which the GFD was requested. Commissioner Longley inquired as to whether or not their presence was necessary at the incidents and if the cost of that time or the wear and tear is imposed on the vehicles and equipment was accounted for. Chief Strahan assured him that both were part of annual budgeting and that because Greenfield often receives assistance on larger fires/incidents as well, it is a reciprocated service that is based on alarm level. Chief Strahan read aloud a general letter of support for the

Public Safety Complex, citing a report issued to the FD in 2009 by Huntley Associates which urged them to consider a new facility based on an inspection of the existing station. He also mentioned that he was working with the DPW to address the repairs needed in the Bell Tower. He noted that the station had received a new air compressor and would be implementing a laundry room in the near future. He thanked both Lt. William Gordon and Brickett Allis for their assistance with a recent MCI Drill at BFMC.

**POLICE:**

-Chief Haigh announced the retirement of Officer Scott West, who will return to serve full time in the military. The department has been in touch with Civil Service and is seeking to fill his position as soon as possible. The budget remains steady on both the payroll and expense sides, with overtime being very closely monitored and having significantly decreased as a result of the 4-2 schedule change. The department has ordered three new cruisers, which it hopes to take possession of in January. Three more will be requested in July 2016, and their approval should bring the department to an adequately sized fleet. Special Officers are currently in training and will begin working in the near future, primarily in the downtown areas. Chief Haigh presented his letter of support for the Public Safety Complex. Commissioner Longley inquired about the progress of SRT. Chief Haigh replied that a 12 person squad had been recruited and had already begun training, as the grant funds had been successfully secured. Chairman Hawkins suggested the use of infrared equipment, but Haigh relayed that the grant's budgeted funds for equipment were very specific and going forward, the department may need to put aside some of its own funds to acquire specialized equipment not covered by the grant.

**EMS:**

- EMS reported 233 responses; 94% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 10 times and provided 8 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 28 times; 2 were for Greenfield Fire. There is a possibility that North Adams Ambulance is going to take over providing for the town of Rowe, which would significantly reduce the amount of responses to that town. Noteworthy events include participation in the MCI Drill at BFMC and stand-by service for the GCC 5K Turkey Race.

**DISPATCH:**

-Ms. Marie announced her resignation as Dispatch Manager. Chief Haigh informed the commission that the PD would be taking over the Dispatch Department. There was discussion regarding a possible reinstatement of an oversight board.

**OPEN FLOOR:**

-Chief Strahan thanked Commissioner Clark for accompanying him to the Springfield Fire Academy.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-None

Commissioner White moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:17 PM.

There will be a special meeting for 2017 Departmental Operating Budget reviews to be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Police Department.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Greenfield Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk