



## **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**

**24 FEBRUARY 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 Gary Longley and Frederick Clark and Adam Provost.

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 as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor, the motion passed.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Hawkins reported that a tour of the Easthampton Public Safety Complex occurred on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The overall takeaway from the experience was the importance of hiring an experienced architect and builder for the project, as proper utilization and functionality of space is high priority. He commented that in general, the tours are very helpful in highlighting what the town's needs are, and problem solving. The Mayor is scheduled to attend the next meeting and an RFP is expected to go out in March. Chairman Hawkins also suggested that each department compile a list of needs not being met at or costs incurred as a result of their current facilities and how a new complex could help with those issues. He mentioned that it might be wise to invite City Council members to a walk-through of the proposed buildings as well.

##### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

An email and phone call were received by the Chairman from the President of a company out of Florida called GEOCommand, which acts as a link between major buildings and agencies. He reported that currently 5 other towns in Massachusetts utilize this company's services and forwarded the information to both Chiefs for review.

##### **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 reported that two more of his men will be out on baby leave in the next 4 months. He also noted that there are no contractual increases in overtime and the department is struggling in this area. He continues to have concerns both about at least two of his vehicles, while others have undergone successful repairs. He reported that the department remains very active with both permits and inspections, with many larger projects already having been completed. He explained that he is working closely with central maintenance to address some of the health inspector's concerns in her recent review of the station. The laundry room project is under way. Chief Strahan noted that he was working on developing a quick reference guide for the City Wide Radio System which would address frequencies, assignments and best practices for use. There was discussion regarding the appointment of the new State Fire Marshal, Peter Ostroskey.

### **POLICE:**

-Chief Haigh addressed the department's dire need for additional cruisers, stating that the current fleet of 12 includes three that are to be replaced in March. He informed the commission that he would seek their support when he reveals his plan to gain more vehicles. He believes he can present it in May, when his budget is transparent. Officer Michael McDowell has graduated the Academy and is now in the FTO program until March, at which time the department will have the desired 6 Officers per shift. Background investigations are under way for 3 new Reserve Officers. The department hopes to hire them and add another 3, with the end goal being 10 part timers on hand who will be candidates for future full time positions. He is in the beginning stages of putting together an education class on opioids and addiction together with Opioid Task Force and Quabbin Mediation. The goal would be to receive grant funding for a Training Active Bystanders curriculum in Greenfield during which high school students and Police Officers would co-teach middle school aged children. He explained that he had put together a similar program in Orange. He also mentioned the possibility of implementing a Community Resource Officer. The details of this position are not yet available, but are under discussion.

### **EMS:**

- EMS reported 257 responses; 95.3% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 8 times and provided 11 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 24 times; 2 were for Greenfield Fire. Ms. West announced that MedCare now has a new Regional Manager, Matthew Fitton. She also shared a letter to the Editor from a recent stroke patient who showed up at their establishment a week later with a bag of apples for everyone. There was brief discussion about the helipad and the transfer process, as Commissioner Clark had recently witnessed the event, and praise was given to the EMTs who he witnessed transferring a patient.

### **DISPATCH:**

-Chief Haigh reported that both new hires have been working out very well and is pleased with their progress. He was confident that they would be able to work alone sooner than later. Both Dispatch grants have been utilized and a request for \$54,000 in reimbursements for wages has been submitted. Additionally, the 16 hours of mandatory department training will be paid for by the 911 Training Grant. All Dispatchers are scheduled to have completed their training by the end of June, including per diems.

### **OPEN FLOOR:**

-None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-None

Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:55 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Greenfield Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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