



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

27 APRIL 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, White and Clark.

A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Chief Strahan, Danielle West

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve as amended via Commissioner Longley. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. All in favor the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Hawkins took a moment to recognize Administrative Professionals Day, and thanked all those who hold such a role in each of the Public Safety departments.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX:

-City Council has approved \$50,000 to aide in exploring site possibilities. Pachico Ross and SVE Surveyors are working on a layout of the Wells Street property, to be reviewed by the Commission for recommendation. The owner of the property was consulted last week and is still on board. Chief Haigh has begun meetings with State level Public Safety officials regarding the project. Mayor Martin has requested a meeting to discuss project funds next month. Tim Coolan has also expressed interest in the project and would like to discuss his commitment.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

-Three complaints received with regard to staying off of the beltway between the street and the sidewalk. Parking enforcement will begin ticketing for this beginning on June 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE:

-Chief Strahan reports that this fiscal year's budget is right on target. He expressed concerns about the Mayor's cuts to next year's overtime budget and projects that the department will not be able to remain in the black with the current proposed funding. He would like to make some changes to the department's promotional policy, stating that he was interested in using the Police department's current policy as a starting point. He also noted a desire to make changes to the Deputy Chief position as to include the increase in EMS response associated with it. Chairman Hawkins suggested the Fire subcommittee meet to discuss the changes with him. He announced

the upcoming retirement of Deputy Chief Jarvis, who is scheduled to leave the department no later than next June. Chief Strahan announced that the town will be holding a public sale of the department's retired master boxes on April 28th at 2:00 pm, and that the units, which represent a piece of the town's history, would be sold for \$25.00 each.

POLICE:

-Chief Haigh was pleased to report that the department is fully staffed and all Officers are healthy. Officer Christopher Greene has been promoted to Detective, which he believes will help Patrol focus even more issues such as downtown and traffic, which is imperative as the warmer weather approaches. All mandatory departmental training is complete with the exception of firearms, which are schedule for June. Most Officers have also completed additional training. Haigh noted the decision to commit the funds to send two Officers to "Train the Trainer" training for Fair and Impartial Policing, which will build upon the already mandated in-service training each Officer receives. The cruiser lease and purchase plan has been approved by the Mayor, which will result in 8 new vehicles by September. The plan will both replenish the existing fleet and set the department up for a year without payments, freeing up capital for other projects.

EMS:

-EMS reported 235 responses; 91.7% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 1 times and provided 10 times. Other community ambulances were intercepted 26 times; 2 were for Greenfield Fire. She reported ample community involvement, including their ongoing partnership with BFMC for children touring the hospital, show and tell with a local Brownie troop, and their participation in the Blood and Guts program for area school children. Ms. West announced that the company underwent a surprise inspection by OEMS, and did very well. She invited the Commission to hold next month's meeting at the facility to highlight the recent changes and improvements.

DISPATCH:

-Chief Haigh announced that Kyle Kendall will be on military leave beginning in May, with a deployment date during June and an anticipated return after December. In addition, Steve Hickey will be retiring as of July 5. While the department is already working on hiring a replacement for Hickey, Kendall's job must be held for him until his return. He warned that this would create a shortage and would likely result in an increase in Overtime, but that once a new hire was obtained, minimum staffing would still be intact.

POLICE BODY CAMERAS:

-According to Haigh, the Western Mass Chiefs of Police Association have voted not to implement body cameras until the State has put forth clear guidelines regarding their use. He suggested that small departments were in a better position to use them due to less call volume and ease of categorization. An initial quote to obtain the equipment was presented at \$230,000, and it was approximated that an additional \$26,000 worth of storage would need to be acquired in order to store the influx of data associated with the footage. He made note that he was only able to locate two companies who produce the cameras, making a purchase based on performance and efficiency very difficult. In addition, a full time Officer would need to be appointed to sort through the data. Haigh also raised concern about the privacy issues that would arise relating to Domestic issues and noted that utilizing the new equipment would be considered a change in working conditions and would likely be used a tool to obtain additional compensation for the Officers. He was open to the idea of cruiser cameras but made the commission aware that because of the time associated with reviewing the footage prior to report writing, Overtime would increase dramatically. Chairman Hawkins suggested that Haigh work with the Police subcommittee to generate a list of pros and cons for the items.

OPEN FLOOR:

-Commissioner Longley suggested the need for stricter regulations for motorized scooters, stating that reflectors and flags should be mandatory for visibility purposes. He also suggested prohibiting vans or trucks from being able to park in spaces that are located directly next to crosswalks. He would like the committee to make a

recommendation for a city ordinance and will begin the endeavor by speaking with the Disabilities Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-None

Commissioner Longley moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:48 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at MedCare.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

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