



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

26 SEPTEMBER 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 Provost. A quorum was present.

Also present: Chief Haigh, Chief Strahan, Deputy Chief Mark Williams, 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 motioned to approve minutes from the July 27th meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

-Commissioner Hawkins expressed his deepest sympathies to all the family members and friends who were affected by the Meridian Street fire and thanked the Fire Dept. for their continued public announcements regarding checking and updating smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and to have regular heating system inspections. He congratulated firefighters Alex Cooley and Michael Cachet, Jr. for their involvement in assisting an injured motorcyclist on Route 2 to BFMC and noted the awards they received for their efforts, stating that it brought great credit to both the department and the Public Safety division as a whole. He noted Officer Laura Gordon's participation in the "Ride to Remember" which was held in support of a police memorial fundraiser for fallen Massachusetts officers and was pleased that Greenfield had been represented at the event. He also extended condolences on behalf of the Commission to the Montague Police Dept. and the family of retired Chief Michael Saharceski, Jr., who was a long time member of that department and who was always helpful to a neighboring community.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX:

-Pacheco Ross is scheduled to be in town on October 9th. EMS has compiled a profile of their needs and a meeting was requested to discuss them and re-visit the site on October 11th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the President's Meeting Room at GCC. Help with maps, charts and site views needed to assist with the team's presentation have been requested of the Town and its applicable departments and the Public Safety Commission. All are invited. Robyn Provost and S.V.E. will be present, the Mayor's Office has been notified, and Tim Coolen of EMS is scheduled to be in town and may also attend. Chairman Hawkins requested that both Chiefs post notices of the event at briefing. An option to provide basic concept design is available for a price of \$3,000, and Chairman Hawkins inquired as to whether or not the Chief and the Commissioners felt the provision was important enough for the Commission to recommend that the Mayor

purchase it? All agreed that it was, and Chief Strahan noted that the Purchase Order could be easily amended to include the option.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

-None

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE:

-Chief Strahan addressed the Meridian Street fire and praised first responders for their hard work and dedication during the tragic event. He explained that as a result of the fire, the Department will be working in conjunction with the Red Cross to distribute and install smoke detectors while educating citizens about their importance. Commissioner Longley asked whether it was true that the initial call was routed to Northampton. Strahan confirmed, noting that NextGen is currently working on this issue and the department should be able to take cell phone calls within the next 6 months. He noted that it did not affect response time, as the transfer takes only moments. Commissioner Longley also inquired as to whether or not the home on Meridian Street was equipped with detectors or if they were functioning to which Strahan responded that the investigation was still ongoing. Chief stated that the Fair had been a success this year and also mentioned that the entire Department had a photo taken to mirror a replica from 1908. He noted the retirement of Deputy Chief Jarvis sometime between now and July.

POLICE:

-Chief Haigh explained the budget was not currently healthy, with Overtime being the main concern and expenses being very tight. Commissioner Longley asked if the department was lacking in manpower. Haigh responded that they weren't, but that three Officers who had applied for FMLA due to the birth of a baby along scheduled vacations and general absences left many openings. He praised the department's continued hard work. He also stated that Parking Enforcement now has 5 employees, one of whom is now full time, and that the department is functioning smoothly.

EMS:

- Over the course of July and August, Ms. West reported 489 responses, 95.96% were on scene in 10 minutes or less. Mutual Aid was needed 50 times. MedCare responded to Mutual Aid requests 10 times and intercepted other ambulances 39 times, 7 of which were for Greenfield Fire. Ambulances were on standby at the Green River Festival in July and the town's Triathlon. In addition, Ms. West noted that MedCare worked with GCC's EMT class in August.

DISPATCH:

-Chief Haigh reported that one employee will complete her training on October 1st, and another in December. He also noted that a 9th dispatcher began training today and a 10th was hired with a December start date which will bring the department to full staffing levels. He also noted the promotion of dispatcher Nicholas Licata, whom he says is doing very well in his new position as Dispatch Supervisor. He did state that the budget was in very poor shape as understaffing has created weekly open shifts.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION:

-After some discussion, Commissioner Longley moved to recommend an annual review of those employees in Executive positions and that during those reviews, compensation be considered in accordance with department pay scale and performance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor, the motion passed.

OPEN FLOOR:

-Commissioner Longley addressed his personal concerns regarding the age and reliability of the town's current gas underground infrastructure, stating it is between 85 and 100 years old. He recalled that Berkshire Gas had intended to provide the town with a plan to modernize and suggested that the Commission inquire with the

DPW to find out if any progress has been made with that plan. Chief Strahan responded by saying that he works closely with the DPW about this issue and he insisted that they are in fact addressing it, noting that a lot of the breaks were pipes no longer in use and that most of the recent problems arose from things that weren't addressed in the past. He concluded that he would invite Don Ouilette from the DPW to a meeting so that he could discuss both the improvements and the plan to control the situation in more detail.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-The Commission has received a citizen complaint which will deal with complaints of Police department personnel: C30A s21 (a) (1) Open Meeting Law. Commissioner Longley motioned to end Open Session, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor, the motion passed. Open Session ended at 6:05 pm. Commissioner Longley motioned to begin Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor, the motion passed. Executive Session began at 6:06 pm. Commissioner Provost motioned to end Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Longley. All in favor, the motion passed. Executive Session ended at 6:26 pm. Commissioner Longley motioned to begin Open Session, seconded by Commissioner Provost. All in favor, the motion passed. Open Session began again at 6:27 pm.

Commissioner Provost moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. All in favor the motion passed. The meeting ended at 6:29 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26th at the Greenfield Police Department Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Nugent, Recording Clerk

The Town Of Greenfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer