

**Village Board Fire Public Safety Committee
~ Regular Meeting ~
MINUTES**

~ Thursday, April 22, 2021 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Guzzo called the blended meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Barker, Trustee Brady, Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Riley and Finance Director Parker.

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald, Police Chief Gunther, Human Resources Director Brainard, Public Works Director Ramsey, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Forssberg and Management Analyst Mielcarski.

ABSENT

Trustee Barry

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2021 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Barker to approve the January 28, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

NORCOMM FIRE ALARM DISCUSSION

Fire Chief Riley discussed fire alarm monitoring services provided by the Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center (ACDC). Currently ACDC provides fire alarm monitoring for the Addison Fire Protection District and the Westmont Fire Department. Addison has been discussing possibly moving fire alarm monitoring services to another agency which could potentially increase Westmont Fire Department alarm monitoring costs. Discussion followed pertaining to Westmont Fire Department options in the event Addison Fire Protection District does decide to discontinue ACDC fire alarm monitoring.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of third party monitoring. Fire Chief Riley stated a con would be potentially delayed response times with a pro being reduced end user expense. Currently a Village Ordinance prohibits third party monitoring and would need to be amended if deemed necessary. Direction was given for staff to develop a Request for Proposals for third party monitoring costs. Further discussion to follow at the next Public Safety Committee meeting once additional information is available.

REVIEW LIEUTENANT TESTING PROCESS

Fire Chief Riley advised a total of 13 current members challenged and completed the lieutenant testing process. One member has ten days to decide if military points are to be used in the process. Staff is hoping to promote three or four members either at the July Fire Public Safety Meeting or an Administrative / Finance meeting.

SOUTH WESTMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley stated a new two year South Westmont Fire Protection District service contract was approved at the January 28, 2021 Fire Public Safety Committee meeting and will begin on June 1, 2021. After the two year contract the fire protection district will be dissolved with parcels either being annexed to Westmont or Darien. Tri-State Fire Protection District will most likely provide fire protection services to the area. Fire Chief Riley said the South Westmont Fire Protection District has said they have been very happy with Westmont Fire Department's services.

STAFFING UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley said 10 new hires were recently cleared to sign up for open shifts. Several new and existing members require Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) certification prior to driving clearance being granted. Several members are currently registered for open classes and staff is looking into hosting a class for members to attend.

Fire Chief Riley explained the department is not necessarily short staffed, more staff members cleared to drive are needed to fill open shifts. Driving requirements include a Non CDL Class B with FAE certification. In an effort to staff all apparatus senior staff has temporarily covered the Battalion Chief rank and the Battalion Chief has manned apparatus. This is only temporary change to ensure all apparatus is fully staffed and operational.

GEMT UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley advised GEMT funds from April 2020 through December 2020 totalled approximately \$140,000; January 2021 through March 2021 funds totalled approximately \$290,000. The Village of Westmont will receive 50% off all GEMT funds with the other 50% going to the State. Staff anticipates the 2021 village funds to total approximately \$500,000. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

BUSINESS SPRINKLER SYSTEM MOU UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley advised there are six (6) Westmont businesses with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place pertaining to fire sprinkler system installation. The MOU outlines benchmarks and dates which must be met. Due to financial impacts resulting from COVID, businesses have inquired about extending MOU benchmark dates. Fire Chief Riley stated a one year extension has been requested, he feels to be consistent any approved extensions should apply to all current MOU agreements. Discussion followed pertaining to change of ownership relating to MOU agreements. The consensus was the property owners should relay pertinent information upon sale of any property. After discussion, direction was given to extend all existing MOU agreements by an additional six (6) months.

OTHER

Fire Chief Riley said service awards would be presented to staff members applauding their service milestones. The awards are as follows: Administrative Assistant Lori Brady (20 years service); EMA Deputy Director Dave Lincoln (20 years service); and Firefighter Rob Sipek (42 years service). Chief Riley further advised a walk-out ceremony for Firefighter Sipek will be held on Friday, May 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Fire Headquarters Station. Village Board members are invited to attend.

Fire Chief Riley provided a COVID update as provided by the DuPage County Health Department. He stressed the importance of continued social distancing, masking and hand washing to ensure member health and safety.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Liddle motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Barker seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary