

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, February 6, 2014 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Senicka called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry, Trustee Nero, Trustee Senicka, Trustee Scott, Village Manager Searl, Police Chief Mulhearn and Fire Chief Weiss

Also present:

Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Police Chief Brenza, Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Fire Prevention Director Kaufman, Finance Director Parker, Public Works Director May, Human Resources Director Casey, Communications Director McIntyre and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Ambulance Purchase

- Chief Weiss provided an update on the new ambulance purchase.
 - Staff is evaluating two vendors, Horton and Lifeline. Both ambulances are utilized throughout the community.
 - New power cots to be included in the purchase. Staff feels the cots are beneficial as they will prevent injuries amongst members. The cots should last approximately 15 to 20 years.
 - The purchase price is \$38,000 per cot. Staff is negotiating existing ambulance trade values in an effort to cover a portion of the purchase price.
 - Trustee Senicka questioned if a power cot service contract was included. Chief Weiss said a preventative maintenance program would be included in the purchase.
 - Discussion followed regarding ambulance specifications. Chief Weiss advised ambulances would have diesel engines and two wheel drive.
 - Chief Weiss said staff has been working with Finance Director Parker and will keep him informed on negotiations. Upon final figure receipt, staff will also advise the Public Safety Committee.
 - Finance Director Parker advised ambulance purchase funds were included in both the 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets.
 - There will be an approximate four month delivery date upon placing order. Staff anticipates delivery in September or October 2014.
 - D/C Connolly indicated upon ambulance delivery the radio installation, lettering and equipment transfer would take place.

Succession Plan

- Chief Weiss discussed the proposed Fire Department Succession Plan to be included in the 2014/15 budget process.
 - A proposal to add three part time Duty Chiefs has been included in the plan.
 - The newly created Duty Chief position would train with the existing part-time Deputy Chief and full time Administrative Director who are planning on retiring in 2015.

Candidate Program

- Chief Weiss said a Fire Department Candidate Program will be proposed in the 2014/15 budget.
 - He indicated approximately one third of Westmont Fire Department members began careers through the candidate program.
 - The program requires approximately two years to complete and several mentors have expressed interest in assisting with the program.
 - Chief Weiss further explained Candidates would pay for their Firefighter II certification, Westmont would provide sponsorship and required fire gear.
 - After Firefighter II certification candidates would then complete eight additional weeks of Westmont training. A list would then be created based on established criteria and candidates would be hired according to list ranking.

POC Incentives

- Chief Weiss discussed options to enhance the POC program.
 - In the past increased training opportunities were a substantial benefit to members. Chief Weiss said training is no longer as much of an incentive as many long time members have obtained most certifications.
 - Staff is looking at offering other incentives such as contributing \$1.00 for every hour worked into a 401K for individual employees.
- Chief Weiss said Human Resources Director Casey was researching additional incentive options.
- Chief Weiss expressed the importance of looking at all options to keep the part-time system in place and moving forward.

Update on Fire Alarm Compliance

- Fire Prevention Director Kaufman distributed a summary of Westmont properties lacking compliant fire alarm systems as well as properties lacking compliant monitoring of fire alarms.
 - As of February 5, 2014 a total of 35 properties lack compliant fire alarm systems. Of the 35, 13 properties are either vacant, have installation contracts or are under redevelopment. The adjusted number of non-compliant properties is 22.
 - Additionally, 15 properties in the Downtown District lack compliant fire alarm systems.
 - As of February 5, 2014 a total of 49 existing fire alarm systems still need to be brought into wireless monitoring compliance.
- FPB Director Kaufman reminded members a compliance deadline of June 30, 2013 was initially set for fire alarm installation and wireless compliance.
 - Trustee Senicka asked at what point is the final deadline enforced.
 - FPB Director Kaufman said he feels the “phased” option was not fully understood and not properly used, most property owners assumed it meant a one year extension. He will continue to work with owners on the phased compliance process and is hopeful staff will be able to resolve issues prior to legal action being taken.
- Trustee Barker questioned if any properties were without any contact.
 - FPB Director Kaufman said there were some properties that have not made any contact with the Fire Department.
 - Chief Weiss said reinspection fines will be issued to properties without contact. The Mayor and Manager are advised prior to fine issuance.
 - Chief Weiss further stated a list of non-compliant properties was provided in the Village Council Fire Report.

Golfview Hills Contract Extension

- Chief Weiss said a request has been received from Golfview Hills Fire Protection District to extend their current contract an additional 10 years for a total of \$55,800 annually. The current contract is due to expire May 2015.
- Discussion followed regarding DuPage County eliminating paper districts.
 - Village Manager Searl said if extended, the Village would need to ensure language was included to provide the Village an option to cancel services in the event the fire district was eliminated.
- Chief Weiss said Westmont responded to 47 calls in 2013, and 55 calls in 2012.

- Discussion followed pertaining to the average cost per call.
 - Trustee Barker questioned the actual fire department cost per call. Deputy Chief Connolly indicated the cost is nominal as most calls are ambulance related which generate revenue.
 - Mayor Gunter and Trustee Senicka said language should be included to increase fees if a maximum number of calls is exceeded.
- Chief Weiss stated he would present Public Safety Committee comments to the Golfview Hills Board and report back to Village Manager Searl.

North Westmont Fire Protection District

- Chief Weiss provided an update on the North Westmont Fire Protection District.
 - A meeting is scheduled for February 17th with the District and Attorney to discuss their communications with DuPage County.
 - The North Westmont Fire Protection District Treasurer has stepped down leaving two board members remaining.
 - The remaining two members appointments expire in May 2014. Staff is unsure what will happen after that time.
- Chief Weiss said the District lawyer had advised Board Members to spend remaining District funds otherwise they will be collected by DuPage County.
 - To date they have purchased two Zoll heart monitors totaling \$60,000.
 - Chief Weiss said he would be taking several additional requests for their purchase consideration.
- He further said staff is investigating alternative options such as forming a Special Service Area to continue providing fire protection services.
- Chief Weiss further said the South Westmont Fire Protection District is still functioning with a full Board.
 - They provided \$30,000 for the purchase of a third Zoll Heart monitor.
 - Chief Weiss said they have been a great support over the years.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Narcan Project - Heroin Overdose Counter Measure / Medication

- Chief Mulhearn presented information on the DuPage County Narcan Program.
 - He indicated the Westmont Police Department is one of nine pilot departments utilizing Narcan to potentially reverse opiod overdoses.
 - He explained Narcan is a prescription medicine that once administered nasally will usually reverse opiod overdose effects within two to five minutes. Subjects that have used opiods will wake up and go immediately into withdrawal.
 - If no response is received within two to five minutes of the initial dose a second dose will be administered.
 - A short video was shown documenting Narcan use and benefits in a Massachusetts town.
- Chief Mulhearn said Sergeant Brian Gruen attended a Narcan Train the Trainer program and will be training Westmont Police Department members on methods to administer the drug.

- He further said benefits to the Police Department administering the drug are they are generally onscene prior to Fire Department personnel which could be the difference between life and death.
 - Once administered patients should be revived immediately if the overdose is due to an opiod drug. If not an opiod overdose, the Narcan will not have an adverse effect on patients suffering from another illness.
- Trustee Addington discussed DuPage County Coroner training he attended pertaining to heroin use. He said it was an excellent training and several things really left a lasting impression.
- Chief Mulhearn stated the Police Department approached the Fire Department prior to proposing the plan to the Village Manager.
 - Chief Weiss said the Fire Department is in full support as DuPage County has high heroin use and the program is greatly needed.
 - Discussion followed regarding suspected overdose calls within Westmont.

Concealed Carry / Medical Marijuana Legislation

- Deputy Chief Gunther advised Westmont is five weeks into the concealed carry program.
 - Handouts were provided with Frequently Asked Questions and a Chicago Tribune article entitled Cook County Sheriff Objects to 240 Concealed Carry Applicants.
 - D/C Gunther said a total of 36,630 concealed carry applications were received state wide. DuPage County received 1,555; Cook County received 8,700 and Westmont received a total of 35 applications.
 - He further advised the Westmont Police Department has the ability to review applications and file any necessary objections prior to permit issuance. However a valid reason needs to be provided and proven that the applicant is a "clear and present" danger. A review panel will then make a final determination.
- D/C Gunther discussed protocol pertaining to handling residents permitted to carry guns.
 - Discussion followed regarding the practical and cultural aspects and the effect on emergency responses and the community.
 - D/C Gunther indicated after discussion with EMS Director Dralle it was agreed the Police Department would handle weapon transport to the hospital when necessary.
 - He further said concealed carry language is vague and the Police Department will be retraining officers on how to handle citizens carrying guns.
- D/C Gunther advised businesses have the ability to prohibit guns. Signs need to be posted at all entrances.
 - He further advised all parks, Village facilities and public events are also prohibited from concealed carry. Signs are currently posted at all Village facilities.
 - Weapons are allowed to be stored in a secured case in a vehicle or vehicle trunk.
- Chief Mulhearn said residents are also not required to advise they have a gun unless asked by the Police Department. He indicated the question would be made part of Police Department procedure.

- Chief Mulhearn advised D/C Gunther, D/C Brenza and he would be attending a medical marijuana, concealed carry and same sex marriage conference in the near future.
- Deputy Chief Gunther advised the State of Illinois has not set marijuana grow operations as of yet. The grow operations would be needed prior to any sell operations are established.
 - Chief Mulhearn said it would probably be a least a year before implementation.

Old / New Business

- Trustee Senicka requested an update on Licensed Gaming within the Village.
 - Chief Mulhearn said he met with Finance Director Parker and determining approximately \$449,000 has been gambled in Westmont thus far.
 - Staff anticipates another 10 machine licenses not included in original estimates being issued which could generate an approximately \$100,000.
 - Chief Mulhearn said the Police Department has not received any complaints or issues pertaining to the gaming machines.
- Trustee Senicka also discussed the new law pertaining to hands free cell phone usage.
 - She indicated the Village should be proactive in educating the public.
 - Chief Mulhearn said he would determine the top ten accident locations and provide enforcement and education.
- Trustee Barry asked if any action has been taken on the Ordinance prohibiting smoking within 15 feet of entrances.
 - Chief Mulhearn said he was unaware of any action. He would look into and report back at a later date.
 - He further said officers keep an eye on noted problems locations and have not received any complaints.
- Police Chief Mulhearn advised the Police Department is following up on graffiti removal along Cass Avenue. There was a partial delay due to weather conditions.
 - Police Department staff will continue to pursue leads and monitor graffiti activity within the Village.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Senicka motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Nero seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary