

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, May 1, 2014 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Senicka called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (arrive at 5:50 p.m.), Trustee Senicka, Trustee Scott, Village Manager Searl, Police Chief Mulhearn and Fire Chief Weiss

Also present:

Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Police Chief Brenza, Finance Director Parker, Communications Director McIntyre, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Forssberg, Village Planner Zeigler and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Trustee Nero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Review of April 26, 2014 Drug Turn In Program and Narcan Program

- Deputy Chief Brenza distributed a hand out reviewing the “Got Drugs” Voluntary Drug Turn In program.
 - He said on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. residents were allowed to turn in any old, expired or unwanted drugs with an emphasis on prescription medication.
 - Deputy Chief Brenza said the program was very successful with the collection of seven boxes of unwanted drugs with an approximate weight close to 150 pounds. A total of 134 residents participated in the program.
 - He further said all drugs will be turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for destruction.
 - The Police Department staff plans to participate every six months when offered by the DEA.
- Deputy Chief Brenza also provided an update on the NARCAN program.
 - He indicated Westmont Police Department Officers have received training and supplies of NARCAN. Since receiving training and supplies officers have responded to cases of heroin overdoses but none were suitable for NARCAN use.
 - He further stated there have been reported uses of NARCAN in DuPage County. One in Hanover Park and another by the DuPage County Sheriff's Office.

Review of Education and Enforcement Program for Unlawful Use of an Electronic Device While Driving

- Deputy Chief Brenza stated the Westmont Police Department created an enforcement program coupled with an education component on the use of electronic devices while driving.
 - He said the new legislation went into effect on January 1, 2014 and was designed to reduce accidents and distractions when driving.
 - D/C Brenza also said as part of the educational campaign, information has been posted on the cable channel, electronic displays throughout town as well as posting flyers at public buildings.
 - A summary by month was distributed showing warnings and tickets issued since January 1, 2014. A total of 252 Warnings and 98 Citations have been issued to date. Only 14% of all violations were Westmont residents.
 - D/C Brenza explained a first offense ticket carries a \$75 fee. After a first offense it then proceeds to a moving violation.
 - Further discussion followed pertaining to exceptions in the law.
 - D/C Brenza said if a vehicle is stopped due to an obstruction or the vehicle is in a parked position; cell phone usage is permitted.

Concealed Carry Act and Law Enforcement

- Deputy Chief Gunther distributed a Concealed Carry Comparison by Town.
 - He indicated Westmont ranked number 7 out of 8 in the per capita / active rank.
 - D/C Gunther said there are currently 55 active licenses in Westmont. There are a total of 87 applicants in the system. He said some applications have been rejected due to improper information and one resident was denied a concealed carry license altogether.
 - D/C Gunther also said the Police Department has been working on additional training scenarios as they are not accustomed to residents with guns.
 - A policy change was made allowing officers to use discretion when asking if a person is carrying a gun. It previously stated everyone should be asked during a police situation. He further said that Illinois law states that if an officer does not ask it does not have to be revealed by the person with the concealed carry.
 - Village Manager Searl asked if there was any correlation between concealed carry and medical marijuana.
 - D/C Gunther indicated the law initially stated a person could only have either or license. They are now allowed to apply for both licenses.
 - D/C Gunther stated the Police Department has access to a portal through the State's website which allows for review of applications on a regular basis.
 - The Police Department can appeal any application based on a clear and present danger.
 - D/C Gunther questioned if the Village wanted to allow for the sale of concealed carry stickers.
 - After discussion the consensus was the Village not provide conceal carry stickers as they could be ordered through the State website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Review of Current Fire Alarm List

- Chief Weiss provided a review of remaining non-compliant occupancies.
 - A total of 29 occupancies remain without compliant fire alarm systems.
 - Out of 29 occupancies at total of six are vacant, four are close to submitting fire alarm system plans which leaves 19 non compliant.
- Chief Weiss indicated staff felt positive and were working diligently towards compliance on all occupancies.
- Trustee Senicka expressed concern over non-compliant properties being allowed to continue when a majority of other occupancies have complied with fire alarm installation requirements. She further said a firm deadline should be established and enforced.
- Village Manager Searl questioned what direction should be taken such as a June 30, 2014 deadline, fines, legal action.
- Chief Weiss stated letters will be sent indicating June 30, 2014 will be the final compliance deadline. If plans are not submitted prior to June 30, 2014 compliance will be pursued with fines being issued to non-compliant occupancies.
- Trustee Scott asked how many extensions were granted.

- Chief Weiss said two extensions have been granted thus far.
- Trustee Scott concurred with Trustee Senicka on setting a final compliance deadline.
- Staff will review Village Ordinances to determine the final course of action.

Review Current Hiring of Certified Part Time Firefighters / Paramedics

- Chief Weiss indicated approval was granted to hire six additional part-time firefighter/paramedics from the current list. Hiring of the six members will then exhaust the current list. The Fire Department is currently going through the hiring process, background check, etc. on the six potential members.
- Chief Weiss said the Fire Department has advertised to create a new hiring list.
 - A total of 41 applications were received.
 - An Orientation has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th. A written test and oral interview will be completed after the orientation.
 - After completion of the process a new hiring list should be established by July 1, 2014.

Review the Candidate Program Hiring Process

- Chief Weiss indicated the Fire Department would begin advertising for a Firefighter Candidate Program.
 - He said the program is geared towards applicants without any fire experience or certifications.
 - Fire Department staff will be working with College of DuPage to coordinate a Firefighter II program for interested candidates to attend. Chief Weiss said candidates would be required to pay for the program with sponsorship from the Westmont Fire Department.
 - Chief Weiss said staff is excited to get the program up and running. He indicated it will be a one to two year process from start to finish.
 - He further said approximately 2/3 of the department came through previous candidate programs.

Review Golfview Hills Contract Agreement

- Chief Weiss brought questions pertaining to a contract extension from the February 6, 2014 Public Safety Committee to the Golfview Hills Homeowners Association Board.
 - Direction was given to propose increasing Fire Department fees if a set amount of emergency responses were exceeded.
 - Chief Weiss said Golfview Hills was open to discussion on the matter. They also indicated they would increase funding for fire department training.

Review North Westmont Fire District

- Chief Weiss said a meeting was held with DuPage County Chairman Cronin, Downers Grove and staff members to discuss the North Fire District.
 - Chief Weiss said Liberty Park is within the Village of Westmont's planning area although there are several concerns with annexing the area into the

Village.

- Concerns include the number of infrastructure improvements required. Improvements would include streets, curbs and water system. These concerns were discussed with County Board Chairman Cronin.
- Village Manager Searl said Chairman Cronin suggested staff look into obtaining grants to update the water system.
- Village Manager Searl also expressed his belief that an upgraded water system was greatly needed and wanted in Liberty Park. He felt the Village should reach out to Liberty Park to discuss.
- Trustees Addington and Scott agreed it needed to be looked at for future planning.
- Trustee Senicka asked if additional Police Department staff would also be required with the addition of Liberty Park.
 - Chief Mulhearn said he was unsure. Staff would have to investigate population, calls, etc. prior to making a determination.
- Chief Weiss stated staff was working on a complete cost analysis of North and South Fire Districts to determine actual Westmont Fire Department costs.

Review Fire Fees

- Chief Weiss said staff is continuing to research fire fees. Discussion has been held with one company however they want to bill all fees as opposed to just fire fees.
 - Village Manager Searl asked if billing could be done in house.
 - Finance Director Parker indicated it would be difficult as the outside companies have a high success rate and an expertise in dealing with insurance companies.
- A survey of surrounding communities will be conducted and staff will report back upon completion.

Old / New Business

Police Department Alarm Billing

- Police Chief Mulhearn discussed Police Department false alarm billing.
 - He questioned if a senior citizen type response could be used to allow for consideration and leniency.
 - He indicated a business within town unknowingly had the alarm panel installed incorrectly resulting in numerous false alarm fines.
 - Mayor Gunter said Police Department discretion should be used when assessing fines.
 - Trustee Senicka agreed with Mayor Gunter and suggested addressing on a case by case basis.

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.