

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, October 16, 2014 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Senicka called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Barker, Trustee Senicka, Acting Village Manager May, Police Chief Mulhearn and Fire Chief Weiss

Also present:

Village Attorney Zemenak, Communications Director McIntyre, Finance Director Parker, Village Planner Zeigler, Fire Duty Chief Riley, EMS Director Dralle, Water Manager Ramsey, Bob Kovanda, Vince Musial and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Mayor Gunter, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barry, Trustee Nero, Trustee Scott, and Clerk Szymiski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 24, 2014 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Barker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Senicka to approve the July 24, 2014 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Drug Enforcement Task Force Officer Position

- Chief Mulhern stated the Drug Enforcement Task Force Officer (TFO) position has been worked toward for several years.
 - One TFO position was offered by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) with a covered cost of \$17,000 to be funded by the DEA.
 - The remaining amount was budgeted by the Westmont Police Department.
 - The position is for a total of two years and can be cancelled with a 30 day notice by the DEA and/or Westmont Police Department. After two years the position will be reviewed and potentially extended an additional two years. The Police Department would like to see the position in place for a minimum of five years.
 - Chief Mulhern said the Police Department asset forfeiture funds would increase based upon how active the officer was. The Westmont Officer would be assigned to Rosemont which is a high asset forfeiture area.
 - The position was opened up to interested officers with the DEA interviewing six applicants. Staff hopes to have an officer in place in the near future. The selected officer will join five other TFO officers from various towns around the area.
 - Chief Mulhern further said the Police Department would provide a vehicle and they would report directly to Rosemont.
 - Due to the assignment of an existing officer, Acting Village Manager May granted authorization to hire one additional officer to replace the TFO position officer.
 - Further discussion followed regarding past and present Police Department staffing levels.

Drug Take Back Program - DEA Sponsored Event

- Chief Mulhern said the Police Department participated in the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Drug Turn in Program in September 2014.
 - He said during the four hour event a total of 88.5 pounds of unused and unwanted drugs were collected by himself and Community Service Officer Whitehead.
 - The event was a success as it takes unwanted drugs out of homes and safely destroys them.
 - The Police Department will continue to partner with Waste Management in providing a sharp's kiosk in the Police Station lobby.

Review of Enforcement of Use of Electronic Devices When Driving and Rail Grade Crossing Efforts in Conjunction with Illinois Rail Safety Week

- Chief Mulhearn distributed a chart outlining citations and warnings issued each month from January 2014 to current.
 - During the timeframe there were 532 Warnings and 231 Citations issued by the Westmont Police Department.
- Chief Mulhearn also distributed a summary of citations and warnings issued pertaining to Illinois Rail Safety Week. Illinois Rail Safety Week was September 14-20, 2014.
 - A total of 20 warnings and three citations were issued with a total 8.75 hours of enforcement.

Update on NARCAN Project

- Chief Mulhearn said the department continues to participate in the county wide NARCAN project.
 - He said NARCAN is carried and deployed by officers in the event they respond to a heroin overdose. NARCAN is successful in counteracting the effects of the overdose and in saving a victim's life.
 - Chief Mulhern said at it's press conference, the DuPage County Health Department presented Westmont with an award certificate for one life save.
 - Chief Mulhearn further said DuPage County currently has 23 saves through law enforcement personnel administering NARCAN to victims.
 - Trustee Senicka suggested recognizing officers at a future Village Board meeting. Chief Mulhearn concurred.

Update on Fire and Police Commission Testing Activities

- Fire and Police Commission Chairman Kovanda discussed the current Police Department promotional list process.
 - He said Illinois State Statutes dictate a Sergeant Promotional Eligibility List be maintained. The existing list expires every three years.
 - Due to the requirement, testing was conducted on October 2, 2014. A total of 10 officer candidates passed the 100 question written test.
 - The next step will include the 10 candidates undergoing an assessment center. Two assessment centers are scheduled for October 28th / 29th.
 - During the assessment center candidates will be observed and scored by other Police Managers. All scores including merit points, military points, etc. will be compiled.
 - The candidates will then be interviewed by members of the Police and Fire Commission. The top three will be eligible for promotional consideration with the assistance of an outside testing agency.
 - Chairman Kovanda stated the Police and Fire Commission would like to have the process completed by the end of the year.

- Fire and Police Commission Chairman Kovanda said authorization was also obtained to fill two Police Department vacancies. One vacancy due to retirement and the other to fill the DEA TFO Officer position.
 - He advised the Fire and Police Commission utilized the entry level list and conducted oral interviews on five potential candidates. One candidate was eliminated and the remaining four were sent for the required polygraph testing.
 - Once results are obtained background checks, physical ability testing and written portions of the testing process will be completed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Part Two of Fire Department Succession Plan

- Chief Weiss advised the 2015/16 Fire Department budget included hiring a full time Deputy Chief position as well as a full time replacement for retiring Administrative Director Skala.
 - He advised the title of Administrative Director would be changed to the title of Deputy Chief.
 - Chief Weiss further said there are 17 months remaining on his current contract. He is unsure of his plans but would like to ensure adequate time to mentor any potential replacements for both his position as well as ADO Skala's.

Promotional Testing

- Chief Weiss said the current promotional lists are due to expire in March 2015.
 - Funds have been included in the current budget to create two new promotional lists. Two Fire Districts will also be contributing to the testing costs.
 - Chief Weiss said discussions were held with Acting Village Manager May, Human Resources Director Casey and Finance Director Parker pertaining to the promotional process.

ISO Review

- Chief Weiss said a great team effort was put into the Insurance Services Office (ISO) review.
 - The formal results will take approximately four to six months to obtain.
 - Staff feels optimistic though as positive feedback was received from the evaluator.
 - Staff will also be working on several internal items to improve upon.

Vehicle Replacement

- Chief Weiss advised the two new ambulances are in production and should be received late November 2014. Staff will travel to the manufacturer in Sterling, Illinois in mid November to view the new apparatus.
- Chief Weiss also stated two reserve fire engines are due for replacement in the next budget year.
 - Staff proposes to reduce the current engines from four total to three total which will result in a cost savings to the Village.
 - Chief Weiss said a special committee has been formed to investigate potential engine replacement options. Staff will be researching a quint engine or a rescue vehicle as the proposed replacement vehicle. Committee members will determine which vehicle best meets fire department needs and report findings to Chief Weiss.
- Chief Weiss stated Ladder Truck 1839 has had approximately \$15,000 in repairs over the last several months. The vehicle is not due for replacement until 2022 as it is on a 20 year replacement schedule.
 - Chief Weiss said with the engine purchase cost savings staff may propose moving the replacement to 2020.
- Chief Weiss advised Ladder Truck 1829 has been declared surplus and will be donated to the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) for training purposes. As compensation IFSI will provide no cost training classes over the next three years.

Norcomm Changes

- Chief Weiss said Attorney Zemenak, Acting Village Manager May and himself were working on Norcomm contract revisions.
 - Specifically staff is reviewing the exclusivity clause within the current contract. Staff would like to request the language be removed.
 - The revision would allow for other alarm companies to provide wireless service if they are willing to install required equipment in the dispatch center.

New Medical Program

- EMS Director Dralle advised a new mobile integrated health care program is in effect in other states. Although the program is in preliminary stages staff feels it is a good community service.
 - She further said Good Samaritan Hospital is working on developing a program and procedures. The Westmont Fire Department would operate under their program.
 - The first phase would determine the scope of practice and the second phase would include Illinois Department of Public Health approval.
 - EMS Director Dralle said the manpower and logistics issues would have to be determined prior to any program implementation.
 - Additional information will be presented at a later time as more program details are developed.

Other Business - Knox Box Use Procedures

- Acting Village Manager May said knox box procedures for gaining access to occupancy common areas is currently under review.
 - He advised until further notice occupancy access should not be gained without property owner permission.
 - Fire Department personnel may check building keys to ensure they are in working order but will not enter any building without prior consent.
 - Acting Village Manager May also indicated the matter would be discussed at the Village Board meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Barker motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Senicka seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary