

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, February 5, 2015 ~

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry, Trustee Nero, Trustee Senicka, Mayor Gunter, Village Manager May, Clerk Szymiski, Police Chief Mulhearn (arrive at 4:30 p.m.) and Fire Chief Weiss

Also present:

Deputy Police Chief Brenza, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, EMS Director Dralle, Fire Prevention Director Kaufman, Village Planner Zeigler, Senior Accountant Olsson and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Trustee Scott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2014 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Senicka made a motion, seconded by Trustee Barker to approve the October 16, 2014 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Ambulances and New Engine

Chief Weiss updated members on new ambulance and new engine purchase status.

Ambulance Purchase:

- Both ambulances have been delivered and one has been placed in service.
- EMS Director Dralle is hoping to have the second ambulance in service early next week.
- She thanked Committee members for authorizing the ambulance purchase. She indicated they are very pleased with the ambulances and electric cots thus far.
- EMS Director Dralle further advised she has submitted a grant request through the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) to fund approximately \$15,000 per cot system. This grant request represents approximately 40% of the cot cost. An update will be provided once additional information is available.

Fire Engine Purchase:

- Chief Weiss indicated the Engine Committee will be meeting on February 6th to work on proposed engine specifications.
- Staff will provide an update as more information becomes available.

Community Paramedic Program

EMS Director Dralle provided an overview of the Community Paramedic Program.

- EMS Director Dralle advised the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Good Samaritan Hospital are proposing establishing a community paramedic program.
- The program would consist of Westmont Fire Department medics visiting recently discharged hospital patients to ensure discharge orders are followed and they have all necessary medications, etc.
- Mayor Gunter questioned if patient authorization would be required. EMS Director Dralle said authorization would be required. An appointment would also be scheduled prior to any home visits. Ambulance crews would also complete visits while still in service.
- She further indicated the program is still in the preliminary phases. Staff would need to work out the logistics as well as billing issues prior to implementation.
- Chief Weiss advised staff would work with Good Samaritan Hospital as well as surrounding communities to develop a successful program.
- Additional information will be provided at a later date.

Candidates Final List

Chief Weiss said the 12 new firefighter candidates have begun Westmont Fire Department training and will be finished by April 1st. Upon training program completion they will be able to fill any open shifts.

Promotional Testing - Lieutenant / Captain

Chief Weiss advised Fire Department promotional testing has been scheduled.

- Lieutenant testing has been scheduled for March 7th at the Park District facility.
- A total of 14 Lieutenant candidates will be challenging the promotional process.
- Captain testing has been scheduled for March 21st at the Police Department.
- A total of four Captain candidates will be challenging the promotional process.
- Chief Weiss indicated the process would include tactical exercises as well as problem employee exercises.
- All testing will be completed the the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.
- Upon completion the posted promotional lists will be good for a three year period.

Additional Inspector - Multiple Family Units

Chief Weiss advised an additional Fire Prevention Inspector has been added to the 2015/16 Budget for the purposes of inspecting multiple family units, along with Code Enforcement matters.

- Fire Prevention Director Kaufman indicated multiple family occupancies require approximately 75% of Fire Prevention staff hours even though they only comprise approximately 50% of the overall occupancies.
- He further said Fire Prevention conducts annual inspections on these properties. However, property owner information is continually changing due to change in ownership. It is difficult to maintain steady, timely pressure to achieve compliance.
- The additional inspector would solely be assigned to dealing with the multi-family properties in an effort to maintain steady and consistent enforcement. The individual would be required to become ICC Property Maintenance Inspector certified so property maintenance type violations could also be identified and enforced.
- Further discussion followed regarding whether the additional position would be more effective as part of either Code Enforcement or the Police Department.
- Additional discussion to be held at a later meeting.

Fire Alarm Requirement

Fire Prevention Director Kaufman indicated a total of six properties have not yet complied with the fire alarm system installation requirement.

- He said a total of four properties are vacant and two occupied properties remain.
- Another 15 properties have submitted plans, and are scheduled for installation in the near future.
- Staff continues to pursue compliance and feels properties should be compliant by late March.

Fire Alarm Monitoring Requirement

Fire Prevention Director Kaufman said Westmont dispatch directly monitors 649 fire alarms within the Village of Westmont.

- He estimates there are approximately 100 fire alarms that remain non-compliantly monitored with two apartment complexes representing a majority of the non-compliant fire alarms.

- He indicated a recent ordinance revision allows for any qualified fire alarm company to install equipment to directly monitor fire alarms at Westmont Dispatch.
- Trustee Barry expressed concern over Norcomm monitoring and billing.
 - He said it appears his monthly billing amount is higher than originally anticipated.
 - Chief Weiss indicated Norcomm experienced billing software issues and bills were not sent in a timely manner. The issue was addressed directly with Norcomm and they indicated contact in the form of an apology letter was sent to approximately 58 affected occupancies.
 - Mayor Gunter asked if other companies are capable of providing wireless service to Westmont.
 - Chief Weiss said the Village Ordinance was revised allowing any capable company the opportunity to install the necessary equipment at Westmont Dispatch.
 - Trustee Barry questioned why private monitoring was not allowed.
 - Chief Weiss explained the delayed response when utilizing a third party monitoring company.
 - Deputy Chief Connolly said with direct monitoring there is a higher level of protection as Westmont has direct knowledge on the system at all times and is not relying on a third party to communicate issues.
 - Trustee Addington said timely response is critical especially in the downtown area where residents occupy space above commercial properties as well as building being directly adjacent to one another.
 - Trustee Addington further expressed his opinion that Norcomm needed to be advised that the issues are not acceptable and they needed to ensure they are corrected.
 - Trustee Nero agreed and asked staff to follow up with Norcomm to ensure no further issues.

Dispatch / VOC Future

Chief Weiss advised Westmont staff members have been in communication with Downers Grove staff pertaining to future changes within Downers Grove.

- He advised the Village of Downers Grove will be placing a new Police Department/Dispatch and Village Hall on the April ballot for resident approval.
- Deputy Chief Connolly provided a Powerpoint presentation on PSAP Consolidation and Next Generation 911.
- Further discussion followed pertaining to dispatch locations throughout DuPage County.
- Chief Weiss advised staff continues to research possible options and is keeping communication open with all agencies.
- Chief Mulhearn expressed concern over potential issues with moving to DuComm. Staff is concerned issues will not be addressed in a timely manner. They will only be addressed on a quarterly basis which staff feels is not adequate.
- Trustee Barker expressed concern over knowledge of Westmont streets and educating residents on proper location notification when contacting 911.

- Direction was given for Chief Weiss and Chief Mulhearn to work with Communications Director McIntyre on developing press releases, etc. to better educate Westmont residents.

North Fire District and Golfview Update

Chief Weiss said due to meeting time constraints this item would be postponed to a later meeting date.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rail Grade Crossing and School Bus Stop Arm Video Camera System for Violations

Deputy Chief Brenza said the Police Department has been working with Red Speed Illinois pertaining to the school bus stop arm automated enforcement program.

- It was determined approximately 70 violations per month would be necessary for the program to be effective.
- At this time staff does not feel enough violations would be generated but will continue to monitor for implementation at a later date.

Deputy Chief Brenza said staff has also been working with Red Speed Illinois pertaining to rail crossing photo enforcement.

- He advised the Illinois Department of Transportation requires at least 1,000 vehicles cross over the tracks daily and a minimum of five accidents over the past five years. The Village of Westmont meets the requirements.
- A test camera was placed at the railroad tracks to determine potential violations.
- Red Speed Illinois will forward copies of all potential violations recorded during the study for review by Police Department staff.
- After review staff will determine whether or not to proceed toward Village Board authorization to enter into a contract with Red Speed Illinois and pass an Ordinance allowing for enforcement.
- Mayor Gunter directed staff to continue investigating the program and report findings back at a later date.

Code Enforcement and Police Operations - Update

Deputy Chief Gunther discussed Section 6.1 of the Village Municipal Code.

- He indicated the ordinance states: It shall be unlawful for any person to post any bills or advertisements on any public property without the authority of the president and board of trustees; and it shall be unlawful to post any bill or advertisement on any property without the written consent of the owner thereof.
- Village Manager May advised after checking with Village Attorney Zemenak staff cannot differentiate between types of businesses which the ordinance would apply to.
- Further discussion followed regarding revising the ordinance to exclude Saturday/Sunday, gaining owner permission, etc.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Barry motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Senicka seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary