

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, September 1, 2016 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Nero as Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero, Village Clerk Szymiski, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Mulhearn

Also present:

Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Finance Director Parker, Public Works Director Ramsey, Community Development Director Ziegler (4:45 p.m.), and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Trustee Barry and Mayor Gunter

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 23, 2016 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guzzo to approve the June 23, 2016 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Drone Guidelines

Deputy Police Chief Gunther advised neighborhood concerns have arisen over drone use within the community. He explained the Village of Westmont does not regulate airspace the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does. The Illinois Unmanned Aerial System Oversight Task Force submitted a recommendations report dated June 30, 2016. The report can be found on the Illinois Department of Transportation website.

Deputy Chief Gunther said drone use has been classified as either recreational or commercial. The Police Department does not have much authority over recreational use until there is a privacy concern, videotaping on private property, etc. However, the Police Department does encounter issues identifying drone pilots. In the event of private property damage, the Police Department must be able to prove intent.

Deputy Chief Gunther said commercial drones are prohibited from flying over crowds of people. He expressed his opinion he is not comfortable with them being utilized at the Taste of Westmont and similar events. It is his recommendation to post signs at public events advising of the prohibited use.

Trustee Nero advised he received a complaint that children were being chased by a drone on Oakwood Avenue. Deputy Chief Gunther advised Police personnel could investigate the incident further.

Fire Chief Weiss said a MABAS Division 10 owned drone is being housed on Command Van 1888. Deputy Chief Connolly is working on obtaining proper licenses. Once the licenses are complete the drone will be used on fire scenes.

Ballistic Vest Donation

Deputy Chief Gunther said Police Department members are equipped with the best available ballistic vests on the market. The vests are provided through grants which fund approximately 50% of the cost. The Village funds the remaining balance and officers keep each vest for a five year period. Officer Opelt found an organization, Armor of God Project, that donates vests to officers in need that do not currently have ballistic vests. Approximately 40 vests were shipped to Alabama to outfit officers in need. It has been estimated that vests have saved 3,000 officers since the 1970's. He further said the Police Department is very appreciative of the Village Board approving the type of vests in use.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dispatch - ACDC and 635 Radio System

Fire Chief Weiss said he attended along with Trustee Nero, Village Manager May, Police Chief Mulhearn, and Deputy Chief Gunther the ACDC ground breaking in Addison on the previous day. He advised it was a well attended event and he had an opportunity to meet several ACDC dispatchers.

Deputy Chief Connolly advised ACDC has been very cooperative and supportive of the Westmont dispatch transition. There are currently 10 technical items on the list which are being actively addressed. He further said the new dispatch center has an estimated \$10.5 million project cost not including the land and equipment. He feels it is a very ambitious undertaking.

Deputy Chief Connolly said from an operational standpoint the core of the dispatchers would be previous Tri-State and Pleasantview dispatchers. Staff is familiar with most dispatchers and are confident they will do a good job. He further discussed the 635 radio system and said several years prior an agreement was made with Westmont, Clarendon Hills, Hinsdale, Tri-State, Downers Grove and Willow Springs. Both Downers Grove and Clarendon Hills are transitioning to DuComm. Westmont is working on resolving radio issues and meeting with Downers Grove on September 2nd in an effort to resolve. Updates will be provided as they are available.

Duty Chief Testing and Promotion

Chief Weiss advised Deputy Chief Connolly will be stepping down from his Duty Chief responsibilities in the near future. The department does not currently have a Duty Chief list in place and will be testing in October to create a new list. Once Deputy Chief Connolly steps down the first member on the list will be promoted into the vacated position.

Chief Weiss further advised due to an injury related Captain position leave of absence a current Lieutenant will be promoted to an Acting Captain position in an effort to fill open shifts. He further said staff will be conducting Captain testing to create a new list in the event it's needed.

Body Armor / Vests Added to Vehicles

Chief Weiss said body armor is now located on fire department apparatus thanks to a Police Department donation. He thanked them for the generous donation. A written procedure is in place in order to protect members in the event the vests are needed. He said the donated vests were expired but would still provide effective protection. Chief Weiss said he feels the vest protection is important and will be obtaining new vest quotes along with researching available grants.

Part-Time Certified Firefighter / EMT-B / Paramedic List

Chief Weiss advised the current firefighter / paramedic hiring list expired. A testing process was completed with 57 applicants. He said from the 57 applicants a list of 16 was created. There are currently several fire department members on leave of absences due to injury or personal matters. Chief Weiss also said there has been substantial contract medic turnover due to many being hired by full time departments. Many of the contract medics also work the part time side of Westmont so they resign both positions.

Chief Weiss said staff is moving forward with the hiring process from the current eligibility list. All 16 potential new hires have completed the background checks. Staff would like to increase current department members. With current leaves, etc. the fire department is functioning with approximately 45-50 members. Approval up to 70 members was previously granted.

Siren Modification - \$20,000

Deputy Chief Connolly explained there are four radio activated sirens within Westmont. Upon transition to Downers Grove VOC the activation method was changed to phone lines. There have been two failures since moving to Downers Grove and staff was unable to detect failure causes. He said there is a new SCADA technology that is continually polling two way communication with the towers. ACDC would like to standardize technology and is recommending the change to Westmont. Deputy Chief Connolly said the upgrade cost of approximately \$20,000 was not anticipated and planned for.

Trustee Addington questioned the installation timeframe upon Village approval. Deputy Chief Connolly advised installation would take approximately 30-60 days to complete. Trustee Nero questioned if only one supplier was available to which Deputy Chief Connolly advised more suppliers were available but Westmont would have to utilize ACDC's supplier. Trustee Barker asked if any additional costs would be incurred. Deputy Chief Connolly advised he was unsure as the biggest unknown is the radio system reconfiguration.

Updates

Accreditation Status & ISO Rating

Chief Weiss advised Westmont's deferral request was approved via a conference call with the Commission with no questions asked. Staff will be working diligently to correct documents with hopes of having the team leader visit in December 2016 and potentially appearing before the Commission in March 2017. He also said the Accreditation Team is really proactive on firefighter cancer prevention. Staff is working to address and put programs in place to address firefighter cancer concerns.

Chief Weiss said an ISO evaluation was completed last year. While staff felt it was a fair evaluation some items may not have been considered. Therefore, ISO will be revisiting the department on November 1, 2016. Staff feels confident with the additional items being addressed an ISO 1 rating should be achieved.

IEMA Conference - Springfield

Chief Weiss along with several EMA Members will be attending the Springfield IEMA Conference in September. He advised continuing education credits are obtained by attending on an annual basis.

Upcoming Public Education Events

Chief Weiss provided updated on several public education events:

- Kid's Safety Camp - Two camps were held this year in June and August. The camp remains a very successful program with over 60 children attending both camps. The donations made by community members allow for such a great program and staff is very appreciative of their generosity.
- September 11th Ceremony will be held at Station 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The Senior Car Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, September 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EMA will be assisting with traffic control during the event.
- The Fire Prevention Week Silent Parade will be held on Friday, October 14. As in the past the parade will begin in Hinsdale and end in Lisle. The church service has been eliminated this year and in its place a blessing will be held in the parking lot with cake and coffee to be served.
- The Fire Prevention Week Annual Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Headquarters station.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Liddle seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy, Recording Secretary