

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, July 6, 2017 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Nero's called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Police Chief Gruen, Fire Prevention Director Kaufman, Duty Chief Fitzgerald, Finance Director Parker, Public Relations Director McIntyre, Public Works Director Ramsey, Police Detective Glynn, Police and Fire Commissioners Kovanda and Musial and Recording Secretary Hardy

ABSENT

Trustee Barry, Deputy Chief Connolly, Deputy Chief Riley, and Deputy Police Chief Brenza

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Addington to approve the April 27, 2017, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECOGNIZE DETECTIVE GLYNN - ILLINOIS JUVENILE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Police Chief Gunther said Detective Nick Glynn was nominated for and received the Illinois Juvenile Officer of the Year Award. The nomination came from Westmont High School for all his efforts working in the schools. He indicated Detective Glynn has been with the Westmont Police Department since 2002 and became the school resource officer in July, 2015. Detective Glynn said he has a great career and thanked his senior officers for allowing him to do what he does.

SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE

Police Chief Gunther advised a safe exchange zone has been established in the Police Department parking lot. The safe exchange zone is intended to be a safe place for residents to make safe exchanges of merchandise, etc. as the area has cameras in place for safety. He thanked Public Works for providing the signage and completing the work. The area has already been used on several occasions. The Police Department will be advertising and promoting use to all area residents.

VACATION WATCHES

Police Chief Gunther advised forms are available online and in the Police Department lobby to request vacation watches. The vacation watch provides an officer visit 1-2 times per day to ensure there are not any issues. He feels it's a great program and encourages residents to take advantage of it.

HIRING PROCESS - TEST DATE AUGUST 26, 2017

Police Chief Gunther said the Police Department is in the process of establishing a new probationary patrol officer list. The application deadline is July 27, 2017. He said a new list is established every two years however, the current list was exhausted prior to the end of two years. The Police and Fire Commission coordinates the hiring process.

Police and Fire Commissioner Kovanda provided a summary of the hiring process. He indicated the hiring process included a physical, oral interview, written exam and background investigation. The orientation and written exam have been scheduled for August 26, 2017. He said it is an extensive hiring process and Police and Fire Commissioners work hard addressing emails, phone calls, etc. during the process.

Police Chief Gunther said Mayor Gunter would be swearing in one new officer at the Board Meeting following the Public Safety Meeting. An additional officer will be sworn in at a later date. Trustee Barked asked if the Police Department was operating at full staff. Police Chief Gunther indicated they are operating at approximately 35 staff which is below full staffing levels. There are currently several off on medical and maternity leave along with several retirements.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Police Chief Gunther advised the Fall Citizen Police Academy class was now forming. The 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. class is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 27th and conclude on Wednesday, December 2nd. Deputy Chiefs' Brenza and Gruen will be coordinating classes to include SWAT, traffic patrol, shooting range, community policing along with several other topics. A total of 30-40 students will be allowed to attend.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ELEVATOR PROGRAM

Fire Chief Weiss said a few years ago the Village opted out of the State's elevator self inspect program. There are approximately 185 elevators within the Village. Over the last year or so the Village has noticed the State is not able to complete the inspections in a timely manner.

Fire Prevention Director Kaufman said the Fire Department would like to have the ability to inspect the elevators on behalf of the Village. He feels this would streamline the inspection process and Fire Department staff would abide by State code to ensure elevators are safe. Trustee Liddle asked questioned the State's elevator inspection fees. Fire Prevention Director Kaufman indicated they are approximately \$100-\$115 per inspection. The Village's fee should be approximately half the cost.

In closing Fire Chief Weiss said he feels this will improve services to the community. Additional information will be presented at the September Public Safety meeting.

REPLACEMENT OF WARNING SIREN

Fire Chief Weiss advised the Burlington Avenue siren is approximately 27 years old. Upon switching to ACDC dispatch their maintenance company was utilized and during inspection they noted issues with the warning siren functions. A total cost of \$25,000 is needed to replace the warning siren which was not budgeted for. Fire Chief Weiss said he was looking into grant funding to cover replacement costs. Staff to report back at a future meeting.

RENEWAL OF NORCOMM CONTRACT

Fire Chief Weiss said the exclusivity clause was removed from the Norcomm contract a few years ago. Since that time there have not been any other companies interested in providing wireless services within Westmont. An initial \$100,000-\$125,000 investment would be required to install all necessary equipment.

Fire Chief Weiss stated staff is hoping to modify the current contract to allow for Fire Department staff to inspect the wireless equipment as necessary. Norcomm would then reimburse the Village of Westmont for inspection services. He feels this would be effective as the Fire Department inspects occupancies on an annual basis. Additional information will be presented at a future meeting.

UPDATES:

ACDC DISPATCH

The new ACDC dispatch facility construction is ahead of schedule with an anticipated November 15, 2017 completion date.

KIDS CAMP RECAP

The June Kid's Camp was success with almost 30 children in attendance. The August class already has 27 children signed up. Staff anticipates another successful camp as the children appear to love all the topics.

FIRE RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Fire Recovery program has collected approximately \$30,000 since last September with another \$20,000 still in process. Staff hopes to have better collection rates in the second year of the program.

9-11 SERVICE

Fire Chief Weiss said several communities have opted out of holding an annual 9-11 service. Some have completely stopped while others hold one every 3-5 years. He asked for input on Westmont's 9-11 ceremony and frequency. After discussion it was decided to continue the annual service. Trustee Barker added that he knows it's a lot of work but feels it's well worth it.

INCREASE IN ALARM SIGNALS

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OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Chief Weiss advised several Fire Department staff members have resigned over the last few months along with several members out on leave. There appears to be greater turnover this year and the Fire Department will need to look at promotions as well as hiring additional members.

Fire Chief Weiss said an EMS fee increase would be presented at the September meeting. A copy of the Naperville fee study was obtained and it appears Westmont is below average in fees collected.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Liddle seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy, Recording Secretary