

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, September 14, 2017 ~

CALL TO ORDER

In Trustee Nero's absence, Trustee Addington called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (5:30 p.m.), Trustee Guzzo (4:40 p.m.), Trustee Liddle, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Gunther

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Finance Director Parker (4:45 p.m.), Village Attorney Zemenak and Recording Secretary Hardy

ABSENT

Trustee Nero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JULY 6, 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Barker to approve the July 6, 2017, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS / EMA RADIO SYSTEM

Deputy Chief Connolly said with dispatch consolidation the Village now has the opportunity to provide a radio system for the entire Village. One Villagewide multisite radio system could be created. He further said it's a work in progress and will take time to establish. Discussion was held by ETSB last week regarding Starcom radio replacements. Once done the current radios could be handed down to EMA and Public Works Department members. All departments would be included on the radio system.

SECOND AMENDMENT TO NORCOMM AGREEMENT

Chief Weiss advised Norcomm wireless agreement revisions were needed to reflect the ACDC dispatch center move. The entire agreement was reviewed to see if any additional revisions were necessary. After review, it was determined a fee increase was warranted as fees have not been increased in four years. A proposal to increase fees by \$5.00 per month would go into effect on January 1, 2018 through January, 2021. A survey was completed by Norcomm showing even with the \$5.00 monthly increase Norcomm fees remain average compared with other companies. The Village portion of the monthly fee would also increase annually over the first three years.

Staff also spoke with Norcomm pertaining to trouble fire alarms due to low radio batteries. Contract language will be included authorizing Westmont Fire Prevention staff to check Norcomm radios for issues. This will allow for quicker resolution on trouble fire alarm issues.

Trustee Barker asked if Norcomm was still responsive to Westmont concerns and issues. Chief Weiss advised they are very responsive. They have installed a computer at the Fire Department which allows for quicker Fire Prevention staff access to alarm issues. He indicated he has no issues with Norcomm.

NORTH FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL SERVICE AREA AGREEMENT

Chief Weiss advised a Town Hall Meeting had been held with three people in attendance. The agreement will be presented at the September 28, 2017 Village Board Meeting for approval. After approval there will be a 60 day waiting period prior to passing the Ordinance and actual tax levy. After December it will still be another 8-10 months before the district is fully dissolved as DuPage County has a process to follow. Attorney Zemenak said the current agreement needs to remain in place through the second installment of property taxes.

UPDATES:

ACDC DISPATCH

Deputy Chief Connolly said he visited the new dispatch center currently under construction. The building is now under roof but still needs doors and windows. The project is moving along and will be a very nice facility upon completion. Staff anticipates moving into the new facility after January 1st.

He further advised addressing issues have improved but there is still a lot of work to be done. ACDC is very responsive to any issues brought to their attention.

Chief Gunther advised the Police Department is very pleased with ACDC as well. They have been helpful to officers on the street.

PART TIME STAFFING

Chief Weiss said he has been working with HR Director Crane and Finance Director Parker pertaining to employee recruitment and retention. The fire department has lost several members over the last six months for various reasons such as medical leaves, full time opportunities, etc. Staff is currently looking at department requirements, recruitment practices as well as training. He will be visiting several local part time departments to see how they maintain a part time system. Staff will review the data and bring back to the Public Safety Committee for discussion.

Chief Weiss further said the fire department culture is changing to a very young group of individuals. The department held two recruitments last year and are currently establishing another hiring list.

Chief Gunther added the Police Department faces similar issues with recruitment and retention. They are currently in a hiring process with 83 applications received. The Police Department is currently operating at a minimum of five staffing to avoid burnout. The issue will hopefully be addressed with the hiring of additional members.

9-11 SERVICE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Chief Weiss said over 100 guests attended the annual 9-11 Memorial Service held at Station 2 on Monday, September 11th. He said it was a good service with great speakers. Following the event several emails were received thanking the Village for continuing the program.

NATIONAL IEMA CONFERENCE - SPRINGFIELD - SEPTEMBER 5TH-7TH

Chief Weiss said he attended the National IEMA conference along with eight EMA members. It was a great training session with a lot of networking.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 7TH-15TH

Chief Weiss advised the NFPA Fire Prevention Week is October 7th-15th this year. The Fire Department Silent Parade has been scheduled for Friday, October 13th and will be the same route as last year. If any staff would like to ride in the parade advise Chief Weiss.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Chief Weiss said the Fire Department Open House has been scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. It will be held at FD Headquarters Station located at 6015 S. Cass Ave. He further advised next year will be the Fire Department's 95th anniversary. To celebrate the milestone the Fire Prevention Week Open House will be held on Saturday, October 13th. A committee will be created to organize an anniversary celebration.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ILEAP ACCREDITATION

Chief Gunther said Police Department Accreditation is similar to the Fire Department Accreditation process. The Police Department was first accredited in 1999 through CALEA. The last certification was received for the period 2007-2010. There has not been a recertification since 2010 due to budget restrictions.

Chief Gunther said the Police Department is now attempting to obtain ILEAP Accreditation status. The Police Department has been updating all policies throughout the year and all are current as of today. He further said Sgt. Gomorczak is coordinating the process and the Police Department is currently in the assessment phase. Staff is hopeful within the next 6-18 months to get through the entire process. He further advised IRMA supports ILEAP and provides partial reimbursement to Police agencies.

SQUAD CAR SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

Chief Gunther advised CO2 detectors have been added to most Police Department vehicles. Detectors were installed as a precaution against CO2 leaking into vehicles and to safeguard officers. He said Ford feels the potential issue is created with the aftermarket additions made by Police Departments.

Chief Gunther further advised an 8mm security film was added to Police Department vehicle glass. The film has strength and durability to withstand side impacts, etc. The film is purchased in rolls at approximately \$100 per roll.

INTERNAL REORGANIZATION

Chief Gunther distributed an updated Police Department organizational chart. He said the one main change was taking the Deputy Chief of Operations and separating out the Detective group. The Deputy Chief positions were changed back to how they previously were several years ago.

PARKING FEES

Chief Gunther said Sgt. Gabreleski is in the process of converting handwritten tickets into electronic tickets. In doing so some Ordinance discrepancies were discovered. Staff will be bringing forward Ordinance changes with revised fees to a future Public Safety Committee meeting.

Sgt. Gabreleski also conducted a parking fine survey and it appears Westmont Police Department is the highest at \$30 with most charging \$25. The changes will also give officers latitude in what dispositions should be.

Discussion followed pertaining to handicap parking. Chief Gunther advised Illinois State Law mandates a fine of \$250 for illegally parking in a designated handicap parking space. Further discussion followed pertaining to allowed parking within the Village.

DEPARTMENT HIRING AND PROMOTIONAL TESTING UPDATE

Chief Gunther advised the Police Deputy Chief interview process was completed. A total of four well qualified candidates were interviewed over the last two days. He said any one of the four candidates would be a great choice making the decision very difficult. Staff will also be looking at a Sergeant promotion process as well as hiring additional officers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Gunther presented before and after pictures of the Police Department shooting range project. He indicated non-slip flooring was added and walls painted to brighten the space. The range is now operated by an IPad. He indicated Sgt. Weibler did a great job coordinating the project. The Public Works Department was a great help as well saving labor costs.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Liddle motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Barry seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy, Recording Secretary