

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, December 7, 2017 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Nero called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Finance Director Parker, Community Development Director Zeigler, Building Commissioner Vitell, Human Resources Manager Crane, EMS Director Dralle, Fire Prevention Director Kaufman, Police & Fire Commissioner Musil, Liquor Commissioner Mulhearn, Park District Staff Member Siewak, Resident Greg Pletszak, Fire Department Members, Police Department Members and Recording Secretary Hardy

ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guzzo to approve the September 14, 2017, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARDS

EMS Director Dralle presented several Life Saving Awards for a May 12, 2017 call where a combined effort from bystanders, police and fire resulted in saving a life. Awards were presented to Lt. Thomas Bills, Medic Ryan Ferry, Medic Marco Montaini, Medic Martin Dwar, Firefighter John Moll. EMS Director Dralle also presented Life Saving Awards to Park District Staff Member Kevin Siewak and Student Nurse Austin Gorman. Lt. Tom Bills and Park District Staff Member Kevin Siewak were the only recipients present to receive the award.

Police Chief Gunther presented awards to Detective Schneider and Officer Broda for their role in the May 12th incident. He commended the quick action taken by all and said he was very proud as Police Chief and praised the Fire Department professionalism.

Resident Greg Pletszak was also present and expressed his gratitude for the life saving efforts of all involved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

HIRING UPDATE

Police Chief Gunther advised the Police Department is still in the hiring process. They currently remain four officers short. The earliest Police Academy opening is in April 2018 and the Police Department has four spots reserved. He said Officer Salvador recently completed the Police Academy and would be sworn in at the Village Board meeting later in the evening.

YEAR END REVIEW

Police Chief Gunther distributed a handout highlighting 2017 Police Department Summary of Accomplishments (copy attached for reference). Items included Community Outreach Programs, Operational Enhancements, Personnel, Building and Squad Improvements, Illinois Special Olympics, Partnering with Other Agencies both inside and outside of Westmont and Extra Detail Assignments were also highlighted.

Police Chief Gunther said 2017 Notable Accomplishments included several items. The members of Unity Partnership participating in the Citizens Police Academy in an effort to bridge the divide between police and the communities served. The DEA Task Force Program has also allowed the Police Department to fund equipment and improvements not funded by the budget. These items included the shooting range and the workout room as well as bike program equipment. The "Safe Exchange Zone" was also implemented and has become a popular program. He said Deputy Chief Thompson also assisted with a 1994 cold case homicide in Lisle.

In closing, Police Chief Gunter said items coming in 2018 included the following: Contract Negotiation with FOP Lodge #63, 2nd Floor Break Room Remodel, Hire Four Additional Officers, Interoperable CAD RMS and ILEAP Program.

Police Chief Gunter also noted that Deputy Chief Gruen has been appointed ILEAS Commander of the Region 4 Mobile Field Force. This role will be a huge asset to the Village of Westmont. Sergeant Gomorczak will be coordinating the ILEAP accreditation process. Staff is hoping to have the process completed in 2018.

Trustee Nero asked Police Chief Gunther if he could post the handout on the website for resident reference. Police Chief Gunther said he would do so.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ELEVATOR OPT IN PROGRAM

Fire Chief Weiss said approximately four years ago, the Village “opted-out” of administering its own elevator program. As a result, the Illinois State Fire Marshal administers and oversees all registered elevators within Westmont. This has presented logistical problems in obtaining certificates of operation and acceptance for many businesses both new and existing within the Village.

Fire Chief Weiss then asked Fire Prevention Director Kaufman to explain the proposed elevator program change. Director Kaufman said the Village of Westmont Fire Department proposes to resume administrative oversight of all licensed elevators within the Village. He said there are approximately 200 elevators within Westmont. The Village would serve as the program administrator with Thompson Elevator performing the inspections. The fees collected would be less than Illinois State Fire Marshal fees with both Thompson Elevator and the Village of Westmont being compensated for their services.

Director Kaufman further said to move forward with the proposal, a new amendment would need to be approved by the Village Board. Staff would like to present the proposed change at the December 21, 2017 Village Board Meeting.

WARNING SIREN REPLACEMENT - WATER DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Weiss stated the warning siren located near the Water Department is approximately 28 years old and has experienced testing troubles. A donor has indicated they are willing to fund the approximately \$25,000 warning siren replacement cost. Fire Chief Weiss said with the proposed Public Works Department facility improvements, the warning siren contractor suggested possibly relocating the siren to either the Village Hall or the 1 South Cass Building. Staff will also be looking at using a combination pole to facilitate other improvements. Additional information will be presented at a future meeting.

EMS FEE REVIEW

EMS Director Dralle advised an EMS rate increase analysis was completed by Andres Medical Billing. The last EMS rate review was completed 2.5 years ago. The current analysis places Westmont fees below other area fees. A total of five rate increase options were presented (copy attached for reference). A proposed mileage increase was also included.

CONTRACT MEDIC STARTING PAY SURVEY

EMS Director Dralle said the Fire Department has experienced increased changeover of contract medics. The changes are mostly due to contract medics taking positions on full time departments. Approximately half of the current contract medics have less than one year with Westmont and several with less than three months. She advised newer medics are typically paired with more experienced members.

EMS Director Dralle said two years ago the contract medic starting pay was increased by \$5,000 which brought the starting pay to \$44,500 per year. In an effort to gain more experienced medics staff is proposing to increase contract medic pay approximately 8%. The 8% increase would bring the starting pay to \$48,000 per year. A review of current contract medic pay and a comparison to part-time shift members was presented. Staff will present additional information for approval at a later meeting.

FUTURE STAFFING / HIRING CHANGES

Fire Chief Weiss said over the last couple of months he has met with Human Resources Director Crane and Finance Director Parker pertaining to part time staff turnover. A total of 22 members have resigned since March 2017, with approximately four additional members leaving over the next few months. Several members left as their full time employers would not allow secondary fire service employment.

Fire Chief Weiss further advised the department has conducted three testing processes over the last year. A total of 15 new members have recently completed training and will begin shift work after January 1st. Another list is in the process of being established.

Fire Chief Weiss said the fire department is approved for a maximum of 80 employees. Staffing has held to approximately 60 members over the last several years and staff would like to now increase to approximately 70 members to fill necessary shifts.

Staff is looking into new ways to advertise employment opportunities in hopes of reaching additional prospective employees. A committee has been established to look at current practices to determine whether they are too restrictive for current and potential members. Fire Chief Weiss said he is working with Village Hall staff and Fire Department staff to gather information and will bring results to Village Manager May for any possible budget requests.

REVIEW 2017 PAY / INCENTIVE SURVEY

Chief Weiss advised this item was removed from the agenda until additional information can be compiled.

UPDATES:

ACDC DISPATCH

Deputy Chief Riley advised he was at DuPage County earlier in the day working on the new CAD system. The new CAD system should go live by June 2018 after a few minor adjustments are made.

The new ACDC Dispatch Center construction is moving along as planned. Staff anticipates moving into the new facility by March, 2018.

FIRE RECOVERY

Deputy Chief Riley said Fire Recovery has collected \$35,076.95 to date. There are approximately 45 claims totaling \$18,604.00 still in process. Fees are on target from last year. He further said fire calls have decreased but EMS call have increased.

PUBLIC WORKS / EMA RADIO PROJECT

Deputy Chief Riley advised staff is still awaiting radios for the project. They should be operational no later than March, 2018.

SPEEDWAY GAS STATION INCIDENT

Deputy Chief Riley said a total of six gasoline tanks along with several truck loads of contaminated soil were removed from the Speedway site a couple of weeks ago. Three new tanks were installed in place of the six removed tanks and construction crews are preparing to backfill the site. Concrete is anticipated to be installed in January 2018. He further advised Speedway has been very cooperative with the Village and is confident they are making progress towards remediating the issue.

NORTH FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL SERVICE AREA

Fire Chief Weiss advised staff met with DuPage County the previous day pertaining to the North Fire District special service area project and its status. The North Fire District will be meeting on Monday, December 11th to establish the timeline. He further advised the Village Board would be approving the Ordinance creating the special service area after the Public Safety Meeting.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Guzzo seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary