

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, August 15, 2019 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Guzzo called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szynski, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (4:35 p.m.), Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero, Village Manager May, Attorney Zemenak, Police Chief Gunther and Fire Chief Riley

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Finance Director Parker, Public Works Director Ramsey (4:55 p.m.), EMA Director Weiss, Liquor Commissioner Mulhearn and Recording Secretary Hardy

ABSENT

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MAY 23, 2019 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Nero to approve the May 23, 2019, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND STAFFING

Police Chief Gunther advised the Police Department is in the process of hiring five new probationary officers. The written and physical testing was conducted on Saturday, August 10th at Westmont High School. A total of 86 candidates were in attendance with 52 passing the tests. The interview process will be completed as soon as possible. Police Chief Gunther also thanked the Fire Department for their assistance with the testing.

Police and Fire Commissioner Kovanda said he was very impressed with the candidates and their qualifications. He said upon passing the one hour interview they will be sent for a polygraph. Staff will keep the Public Safety Committee updated on the process.

LOCAL DUI PROSECUTION

Police Chief Gunther said at the May meeting, discussion was held on utilizing a local attorney for DUI prosecutions in place of the DuPage County State's Attorney Office. A chart outlining cost comparables was presented for review (attached). Discussion followed pertaining the potential cost savings utilizing a local attorney. Chief Gunther advised the main driving factor would be having one attorney as the point of contact resulting in consistent prosecution. Proposals have been received from Attorney Ann Marie Perez and Attorney Mike McMahon. Police Chief Gunther said both attorneys are very similar on a cost basis and both very qualified. Staff proposes to initially start with a one year contract.

After further discussion Trustee Nero moved, seconded by Trustee Liddle to approve a contract with Attorney Mike McMahon in an amount not to exceed \$26,000 to provide local DUI prosecution. Motion carried unanimously.

DEA TASK FORCE - PERSONNEL AND PURCHASING

Police Chief Gunther stated Detective Opelt completed his five year DEA Task Force rotation and will be returning to the patrol division. A selection process to replace Detective Opelt was recently completed and was open to any non probationary members with nine members submitting applications. The initial list was narrowed down to three applicants which were interviewed by the DEA. After interviews, Officer Dominguez was selected as the next DEA Task Force representative.

Police Chief Gunther advised 10 new replacement AR15's will be purchased using DEA funds. An additional 13 guns will be retrofitted having 10 year old barrels replaced. The old upper parts will be declared surplus. A purchase of 4" suppressors will also be made in an effort to protect officer hearing.

Police Chief Gunther said DEA funds will also be utilized for a LED energy efficient light project at the Police Department. Deputy Police Chief Thompson will be coordinating the project. ComEd and State of Illinois grants are also available.

OTHER BUSINESS

Police Chief Gunther thanked staff for attending the Police Department Open House / National Night Out event held on August 6th. There was a great turnout and the Police Department looks forward to the same event in 2020.

Police Chief Gunther said applications are being accepted for the Citizens Police Academy class scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 25th. Deputy Police Chief Thompson advised to date there are currently 18 residents signed up.

Police Chief Gunther said King Car Wash was holding an event on August 16th & 17th to benefit Special Olympics. They will match any donations collected. He also said Mariano's was collecting food donations from August 17th to 24th to benefit the People's Resource Center.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT AWARD

Fire Chief Riley presented resident Rachael Hudik with a Citizen Life Saving Award in recognition of outstanding actions taken towards saving a human life on June 28, 2019. On Friday, June 28th, Rachael's friend was choking on an object in the bathroom at the Westmont Yard daycamp. Rachael quickly jumped into action performing the Heimlich Maneuver several times until the item dislodged and her friend was able to breathe again. Fire Chief Riley commended her for her actions and quick thinking in a stressful situation.

SERVICE AWARD - CAPTAIN NOLAN

Fire Chief Riley presented Captain Arnold Nolan with a plaque recognizing 25 years dedicated service to the Westmont Fire Department. Captain Nolan began his career with Westmont in 1994 and has risen through the ranks during that time. Captain Nolan said it has been great working for Westmont and expressed appreciation for their support throughout his career.

NEW CAD SYSTEM UPDATE

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly advised the new CAD system has been live since June with a smooth cutover. Overall the system has been working well with a few minor connectivity issues and tweaking a few responses. Staff is working on installing the new Sierra Wireless Modems in all fire vehicles to improve connectivity.

FIRE STATION ALERTING UPDATE

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly said new fire station alerting is scheduled for testing late August and should go live by September. The new system will have an automated voice dispatching calls. This is an advantage as dispatchers are still able to talk to callers while the information is being digitally dispatched.

NEW PAYROLL PROGRAM UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley advised staff is very close to going live with the Fire Department Novatime payroll system. Fire Department staff members have been working closely with the Finance and IT Departments to customize Novatime to support the part time Fire Department payroll. Staff hopes to go live in the next couple of months.

NEW AMBULANCE UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley said staff visited Ohio to inspect the new ambulance, they found a few minor issues to be corrected. Once issues are repaired the ambulance will be sent to Sterling, Illinois for final completion. Staff hopes to have the new Medic 184 in service by the end of September.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CRUISIN' NIGHT RECAP

Fire Chief Riley said the Fire Department Cruisin Night was held on Thursday, August 8th. The weather was excellent and the turnout was great. The dunk tank was a tremendous new addition raising \$601 to be donated to the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance "Camp I Am Me". Donations totaling \$231 were also raised for fire department cookies prepared by The Sweet and Savory Spot as well as fresh popped popcorn. The Westmont Firefighters Association will facilitate the \$832 donation to the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance.

STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS

Fire Chief Riley reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Staffing Considerations - Full Time versus Part Time Staffing. He explained Westmont Fire Department has always been part-time but it has been difficult to maintain adequate staffing. Outside forces such as unions, full time department secondary employment restrictions, state legislation as well as personal priorities have all impacted staffing. The topic has been discussed with Public Safety on numerous occasions over the last several years. Fire Chief Riley expressed his opinion that he would like to sustain the part-time system but knows at some point it may need to transition to full-time.

Fire Chief Riley highlighted three options for information. Options include planning, design and implementation phases. Trustee Barry expressed his opinion that there may be other options such as outsourcing or partnering with a neighboring department. He feels staff needs to move forward with pursuing full-time status. Fire Chief Riley responded that outsourcing may be difficult as the contract companies are also struggling to fill open positions. Trustee Guzzo concurred with Trustee Barry that staff needs to move forward with the planning phase. Trustee Barker said he was in favor of full-time but felt staff needed to fully understand the complicated financial obligations. Fire Chief Riley said staff has also been working to educate Police and Fire Commission members on fire department operations.

After further discussion pertaining to various options Trustee Addington suggested forming a special sub-committee to develop a plan. All members agreed and a sub-committee will be formed to include Trustee Guzzo, Mayor Gunter, retired Fire Chief Weiss and other staff members.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

Fire Chief Riley said the annual Fire Prevention Week Open House will be held on Saturday, October 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's event will include hot dogs, hamburgers and other food in hopes of drawing a large crowd. He further advised the annual Silent Parade is set for Friday, October 11th. The parade will begin in Hinsdale and travel west to Lisle ending at Trinity Lutheran Church.

SEPTEMBER 11TH SERVICE

Fire Chief Riley advised the 9-11 Memorial Service was scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. at 500 N. Cass Ave. This year's event will feature new speakers as well as resident Haley Grimm singing God Bless America and the Star Spangled Banner. Staff is hoping for nice weather and a large turnout.

RFP CONTRACT UPDATE

Chief Riley advised staff is working with Finance Director Parker to begin the RFP process for the EMS Contract which expires on April 30, 2020.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Nero motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Liddle seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary