

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, February 27, 2020 ~

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 Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Village Manager May, Police Chief Gunther and Fire Chief Riley

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare, Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald, EMS Director Dralle, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Finance Director Parker, Human Resources Director Brainard, Communications Assistant Babyar, Police Administrative Assistant Bjur, Police Social Media Coordinator Whitehead and various Fire / Police Department staff members.

ABSENT

Trustee Barry and Trustee Nero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Liddle to approve the November 21, 2019, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Police Chief Gunther presented 20 year service awards to Sergeant Rainaldi, Detective Schneider, Officer Newton and Officer Malamis. All four members began their careers on January 10, 2000. Police Chief Gunther thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the Westmont Police Department.

ILEAP ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed.

PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Police Chief Gunther advised Officer Pacheco has been nominated as the 2019 Officer of the Year. The nomination is made by an Awards Committee consisting of approximately 5-7 Police Department members. Police Chief Gunther said Officer Pacheco has been a member for approximately three years and was presented with an award at the November Public Safety Meeting for a successful case he was involved in.

2019 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Police Chief Gunther presented the Westmont Police Department 2019 Summary of Accomplishments. Highlights included:

- In 2019, the Westmont Police Department received 20,391 calls for service that officers responded to in a timely and professional manner.
- One of the Westmont Police Department's principal goals is to demonstrate the human side of the police force. Building bridges and trust within the community will allow us to better serve Westmont residents. In 2019 we signed the "10 Shared Principles" resolution, which memorialized a continuing commitment to the fair and equitable treatment of our entire population.
- Fiscal responsibility was highlighted comparing the Operating Budget compared to the Actual Budget as prepared by Finance Director Parker.
- The Westmont Police Department joined a Countywide CAD/RMS system implemented for nearly all DuPage County Agencies. This is a long term IT infrastructure solution, which has standardized the way DuPage police agencies communicate, document and share information.
- Police Department staff attended 2,126 hours of specialized training, while still maintaining required manpower, minimizing costs and accomplishing the required training goals for the year.
- Participation in several community outreach programs were included in 2019 including Special Olympics, School Presence and Resource Officer programs, Squad Car Night, Citizens Police Academy, National Night Out / Open House along with various other activities.

Police Chief Gunther said 2020 Goals include the following:

- Implement ILEAP recommendations through policy/operational improvements.
- Initiate a Junior Citizens Police Academy.
- Achieve "Dementia Friendly" status in Westmont.
- Conduct promotional testing for the rank of Sergeant.
- Remodel Police Department locker rooms.
- Update special event permitting process.
- Coordinate with the Westmont Special Events Corporation to improve operational efficiencies.
- Update Intergovernmental Agreement between District #201 and Village for School Resource Officer services.
- Continue to improve our environmental impact through energy efficiency, reducing pollution and recycling waste.

Police Chief Gunther advised the Westmont Police Department 2019 Highlights and Accomplishments will be available for review on the Village of Westmont website.

FESTIVAL SECURITY FOLLOW UP

Police Chief Gunther said discussion was held at the November 21, 2019 Public Safety Meeting on potentially uniforming officers with AR15 rifles during community events. This would be in an effort to dissuade potential criminal activity. Police Chief Gunther asked the Village Board if they had given the concept some thought since the November meeting.

He advised the proposal would be to arm two officers at the Taste of Westmont and July 4th festivities. One officer would be located at each end of the events. After extensive discussion on the pros and cons Mayor Gunter said Police Chief Gunther and the Police Department would have the final decision on use of the weapons.

PERMIT REQUEST PROCESS UPDATE

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

SERVICE AWARDS

Fire Chief Riley presented a 30 year service award to Lt. Jim Halik and a service award was also recognized for Firefighter Marc Skowronski's 20 years of service.

Fire Chief Riley presented retired Fire Captain Leif Johnson with a plaque honoring 28 dedicated years of service to the Westmont Fire Department. Chief Riley wished Captain Johnson a very happy retirement.

LIFE SAVING AWARDS

Fire Chief Riley said EMS Director Dralle would be presenting life saving awards for three separate 2019 EMS calls.

EMS Director Dralle said on July 14, 2019 emergency crews responded to the scene of a full arrest. Due to their life saving actions, Life Saving Awards were awarded to Battalion Chief Little, Acting Lieutenant King, FM Busche, FM Walsh, FF Chinn and FF Sipek. All members were commended for their life saving efforts on the call.

EMS Director Dralle said on September 7, 2019 emergency crews responded to the scene of an unresponsive patient in full arrest. Due to an excellent job in treating and transporting the patient with the highest degree of excellence, Life Saving Awards were awarded to Battalion Chief Little, Lt. Stoltman, FM Busche, FM Tobolt, FM Lanzirotti and FF Chinn.

EMS Director Dralle stated on December 19, 2019 emergency crews were dispatched for an unconscious 68 year old male. Upon arrival crews found responding Westmont Police Officer Hamblin performing chest compressions. After stabilizing the patient he was then transported to Good Samaritan Hospital breathing and with a pulse. The crew worked as a team and because of their efforts he was released from the hospital on December 23, 2019 just in time to spend Christmas with his family. Due to their actions, Life Saving Awards were presented to Acting Officer Moll, FM Ceniti, FM Gruca, FM Mobley, FF Dizonno and Police Officer Hamblin.

Police Chief Gunther also presented Police Officer Hamblin with a plaque recognizing his efforts as the first emergency responder on scene. He indicated that he was very proud of his actions.

The patient Mr. Mike Oliver was present at the meeting accompanied by his wife and daughter. Mr. Oliver thanked the Fire and Police staff members that worked flawlessly to save his life and affording him the chance to spend Christmas with his family. He further thanked the Village for allowing members to be kept up to date with all necessary training and response procedures. Fire Chief Riley thanked Mr. Oliver for attending the meeting and sharing his recovery with all present.

PROMOTIONS

Fire Chief Riley advised that a succession plan has been discussed and in place for several years. Due to the retirement of Battalion Chief Bocek and other staff members, it was determined that promotions were necessary.

Fire Chief Riley said Lieutenant Halik was being promoted to Captain rank effective February 27, 2020. Mayor Gunter swore Captain Halik in and he was pinned by his mother. He thanked the Village of Westmont for all their support over his 30 year career.

Fire Chief Riley said Captain Nolan and Captain Sievert were being promoted to Battalion Chief rank effective February 27, 2020. Captain Kielczynski was promoted to Battalion Chief rank effective April 1, 2020 after Battalion Chief Sievert resigns due to secondary employment restrictions. Mayor Gunter swore all three members in with their family members pinning them.

Battalion Chief Sievert took the opportunity to stand at the podium for the last time as a Westmont Fire Department member. He thanked the Village for their support and the privilege to help lead the department over his 20 year career. He thanked his coworkers, parents, wife Linda and his children for supporting him throughout his time in Westmont.

Fire Chief Riley said Battalion Chief Fitzgerald was being promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief effective February 27, 2020. Mayor Gunter swore Deputy Chief Fitzgerald in with his family pinning him.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Fire Chief Riley said the 2019 Firefighter of the Year Award was given to Firefighter Josh Boyajian. Due to the commitment as a probationary firefighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department, Josh was unable to attend the meeting.

2019 YEAR END REPORT

Fire Chief Riley distributed the Westmont Fire Department 2019 Annual Report for review by all Public Safety Committee members. The 2019 Westmont Fire Department Annual Report will be available on the Village of Westmont website.

RFP EMS CONTRACT

Fire Chief Riley stated Deputy Chief Connolly did a phenomenal job with the EMS contract request for proposal process. A total of three proposals were received on Friday, February 21, 2020 and opened by Fire Chief Riley and Finance Director Parker on Monday, February 24, 2020. Proposals were received from AMR/Kurtz, PSI and Metro Paramedic Services.

Deputy Chief Connolly reviewed the proposal process and different scenarios included in the proposal. Based on the bids all staff would remain as Firefighter/Paramedics. An option to provide either 12 or 15 contract medics was also included however, staff does not anticipate utilizing the option at the current time. He further stated an incentive penalty clause was included to decrease contract medic turnover. All bidders were able to meet the proposal requirements and have indicated they will hire existing contract members.

Deputy Chief Connolly expressed concern over high employee turnover with AMR/Kurtz, the Fire Department's current contract. The high rate of turnover creates a burden with training, etc.

After further discussion and due to time constraints, Village Manager May indicated the item would be included on the March Village Board agenda for approval. Additional discussion can be held at the Administrative / Finance Committee meeting prior to the March Village Board meeting. All Village Board members are encouraged to review all proposals individually.

CAD UPDATE / ISSUES

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Liddle seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary