

**Village Board Public Safety Committee
~ Regular Meeting ~
MINUTES**

~ Thursday, November 5, 2020 ~

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Barker, Trustee Brady, Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Riley, Police Chief Gunther and Finance Director Parker.

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare, Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald, EMS Director Dralle, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Human Resources Director Brainard, Communications Director McIntyre, Admin. Asst. Mielcarski and Acting FPB Director Schultz.

ABSENT

Trustee Barry and Trustee Nero.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 27, 2020 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Barker to approve the August 27, 2020 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

SERVICE AWARDS

Police Chief Gunther advised Service Awards would be presented to Sergeant Gabreleski (30 years) and Administrative Assistant Bjur (35 years) in January 2021 prior to their respective retirements.

Fire Chief Riley presented service awards to Lt. Joe Newton (not present) - 20 years service; Capt. John Barnacle - 20 years service; and Battalion Chief Joe Kielczynski - 25 years service.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Fire Chief Riley said F/M Burton Chaet and F/M Darrel Parrish are being promoted to Lieutenant rank. F/M Chaet has been a Westmont Fire Department member for 24 years and F/M Parrish for 9 years. He advised both members are involved in many aspects of fire department operations. Mayor Gunter administered the Oath of Office to each member and their families pinned their new badges.

Fire Chief Riley advised Capt. Eric Blaskovich was being promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief. Capt. Blaskovich has been a Westmont Fire Department member for 23 years and also serves as the Training Officer. Mayor Gunter administered the Oath of Office and Eric's family pinned his badges.

Trustee Guzzo thanked Mayor Gunter for administering the Oath of Office as she was attending virtually.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Deputy Police Chief Thompson reviewed the proposed license plate recognition program as discussed at the August 27, 2020 Public Safety Meeting. Staff is considering installation of cameras on Ogden Avenue near Oakwood as well as on 63rd Street near Mariano's Grocery Store. A quote to provide eight cameras was received from Vigilant Solutions totaling approximately \$125,000. He stated DEA funding could potentially be used to fund the project. Police staff are working with Westmont Public Works and DuPage County to investigate running power to existing poles near the intersections. DuPage County indicated they would allow use of the right of way as long as Westmont provided the power. The Illinois Department of Transportation will not allow camera installation on IDOT owned traffic poles.

Deputy Police Chief Thompson said once install is complete Westmont could interface with Oak Brook and Hinsdale cameras as they utilize the same system. Further discussion followed pertaining to network size and other potential locations. Police Chief Gunther advised Westmont would also have the ability to access vehicle reposessor's systems as they utilize the same system. Police Chief Gunther also said that guidelines will need to be established pertaining to data retention. The estimated completion is planned for mid 2021.

POLICE STAFFING UPDATE

Police Chief Gunther said the Police and Fire Commission presented an employment offer to an eligibility list candidate, Officer Santiago accepted and will be attending the Police Academy in the near future. With the hiring of Officer Santiago the eligibility list is now exhausted. The Police and Fire Commission is conducting a testing process in order to establish a new eligibility list. To date approximately 100 applications have been received with the application period closing on Friday, November 6th. Portions of the process will be conducted via Zoom meetings to ensure applicant safety. Police Chief Gunther further advised the Sergeant promotional testing process was in progress with the final list available in early February 2021.

Police Chief Gunther said Officer Jeremy Durst has been assigned as the new School Resource Officer. He is currently in training and will assume the new role on Monday, November 9th.

Police Chief Gunther said the Detective position is typically on a five year rotation prior to being promoted. Changes are staggered to avoid changing out mid-year.

ELECTION DAY RECAP

Police Chief Gunther said additional police staffing was added on Election night as a precaution in the event of civil unrest. With election results still pending everything was relatively quiet without any polling site issues. Staff will be closely monitoring as election results become available.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

STAFFING UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley said the Fire Department is currently operating with 55 members, having lost 29 members since January 2020 due to retirement, secondary employment restrictions, family, etc. A hiring process is currently underway with the application period closing on Friday, November 6th. To date, 23 applications have been received with approval to hire 15 new members.

Fire Chief Riley further advised the Fire Prevention Bureau is currently operating two members short due to retirements. Staff is working with Manager May and HR Director Brainerd on job descriptions and pay studies. Staff hopes to request hiring approval at the February 2021 Public Safety Committee meeting.

SCBA GRANT UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley said the Fire Department was awarded a Federal Equipment Grant in the amount of \$181,818. Over the last two years, the Fire Department has budgeted \$269,000 for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). An additional \$30,000 was received from HB 64 to be used towards the purchase.

Fire Chief Riley further said in August, a committee was formed to evaluate SCBA manufacturers. The committee solicited three vendors to provide demo airpicks to review, wear and complete training in as well as provide a comprehensive presentation on their respective products. The committee then narrowed the field down to two vendors, they then discussed the pros and cons of each product. After discussion and consideration, the committee has recommended Scott Air Packs. The committee felt the Scott air pack provides the most ergonomic fit, safety features and best warranty package.

Fire Chief Riley advised the total purchase cost including spare masks, bottles, rapid intervention packs, regulators, etc. totaled \$307,810.

FIRE ALARM MONITORING FEE INCREASE

Fire Chief Riley said per contract, Norcomm Public Safety Communications wireless alarm fees are scheduled to increase \$5 from \$70 to \$75 per month beginning January 2021. He advised many communities are not increasing fees due to the current state of the economy due to impact from the pandemic. Norcomm has indicated they are willing to work with Westmont pertaining to fees. Fire Chief Riley said Norcomm has also been working with businesses pertaining to payments and continuation of service. Direction was given to Village Manager May to contact Norcomm and request any proposed fee increases be delayed until January 2022.

BUILDINGS WITH SPRINKLER MOU UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley stated there are currently six locations with approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements pertaining to the installation of life safety systems. There are also businesses currently not sprinklered but would trigger sprinkler requirements if any additional construction work was proposed. Per Village Board direction, MOU agreements are no longer allowed to be authorized by the Fire Department. Any MOU agreements will be presented to the Village Board for consideration.

Further discussion followed pertaining to the Central Business District (CBD) and potential fire hazards relating to common walls within the structures. Fire Chief Riley expressed concerns pertaining to the CBD as several have common basements. He indicated life safety inspections were being conducted on an annual basis. Discussion followed regarding conducting semi-annual inspections to ensure compliant life safety within the CBD. Fire Chief Riley said staff could look into additional inspections but advised the Fire Prevention Bureau was currently short staffed due to retirements.

Fire Chief Riley said the vacant property located at 203 N. Cass Ave. is not currently compliant with wireless fire alarm monitoring. The property has been vacant for over 10 years and is currently monitored by a third party agency. Village Manager May indicated the property owner feels they are compliant with life safety measures as the vacant building does have an active monitored fire alarm system. Discussion ensued

pertaining to compliance with the established Westmont Ordinance requirements. Direction was given to Fire Chief Riley to look into enforcement options and report back to the Public Safety Committee.

PROMOTIONAL TESTING

Fire Chief Riley advised Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare coordinated the internal captain and battalion chief promotional testing processes. By completing the process internally, approximately \$24,000 in cost savings was realized. A total of five members challenged the captain rank test and two challenged the battalion chief rank with all members passing. He further said in early January 2021 a request to promote three captains will be presented to fill current vacancies.

Fire Chief Riley stated with the two lieutenant promotions earlier in the meeting, the existing lieutenant list is now exhausted. Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare will be coordinating another internal lieutenant promotional testing process beginning later in November. Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare was commended for his efforts relating to the promotional testing processes.

SOUTH WESTMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT UPDATE

Fire Chief Riley said the South Westmont Fire Protection District (SWFPD) contract is scheduled to expire in May, 2021. After discussion with Village Manager May and the SWFPD Board it was decided that the contract would be extended two additional years. The SWFPD would be required to initiate the process to dissolve the existing fire district and contract with Tri-State Fire Protection District. Tri-State Fire Protection District would then provide services to the 94 existing homes. Once drafted, a new two year contract will be presented to the Public Safety Committee for review and approval.

OTHER

Zoll Cardiac Monitor

Fire Chief Riley said the existing Ladder Truck 183 Zoll Cardiac monitor would soon be obsolete and in need of replacement. The monitors typically have a 15 year lifespan with Zoll support terminating on February 3, 2021. Zoll has offered to replace the monitor at a substantial cost reduction totalling \$30,700. The new purchase costs typically exceed \$40,000. Staff is proposing to utilize South Fire Protection District equipment funds totalling \$25,000 and an additional \$5,000 training funds. The Village would then be responsible for approximately \$700 towards the purchase.

Fire Chief Riley said the new monitor would be placed on Ambulance 183 and the current unit would then be placed on Ladder Truck 183. Finance Director Parker indicated it makes sense to utilize resources available even though they would not

cover the entire purchase cost. After discussion, all members were in favor of the proposed Zoll Cardiac Monitor purchase as proposed.

Covid-19

Mayor Gunter advised discussion was held at the Mayors and Managers meeting pertaining to upgraded building filtration systems and fogging to reduce Covid-19 transmission. Fire Chief Riley said on a monthly basis all Village facilities are fogged, and more frequently in the event of a positive case. The facilities included are Village Hall, Westmont Center, Fire Department HQ, Police/Fire Facility, Train Depot and Public Works Facilities. Village Manager May indicated the estimated cost to upgrade the existing Public Works Facilities filtration system was approximately \$103,000. Fire Chief Riley further said all ambulances are treated with a UV light on a daily basis in an effort to control Covid-19 transmission. He indicated Covid-19 is increasing and urged all staff to exercise caution when in public.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Liddle motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Barker seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary