

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, February 28, 2019 ~

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymiski, Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Gunther and Fire Chief Weiss

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Interim Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald, Interim Deputy Fire Chief O'Hare, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Finance Director Parker, Public Works Director Ramsey, EMS Director Dralle, Deputy Liquor Commissioner Mulhearn, Communications Director McIntyre, Public Library Director Coen, Police Social Media Coordinator Whitehead, Resident Sadie Rhoads, Recording Secretary Hardy, Fire Department Staff and Family Members

ABSENT

Trustee Barry

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2018 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Liddle to approve the October 25, 2018, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ILLINOIS SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

Deputy Chief Gruen advised \$16,221.54 was raised for Special Olympics in 2018 which is the highest amount raised to date. The police department originally set a fundraising goal of \$15,000, but was a little shy as the year was coming to a close. Just as the year was ending, Sadie Rhoads, who has a younger brother with special needs, collected \$369.61 on her own and made a donation to the Special Olympics Fundraiser. Sadie's donation helped the community reach its goal and qualified the Westmont Police Department to be listed on the annual Illinois Special Olympics t-shirt. Sadie was recognized by Police Chief Gunther and Deputy Chief Gruen at the meeting.

Police Chief Gunther said increased fundraising was due in a large part to Deputy Chief Gruen's efforts. Deputy Chief Gruen has been the Special Olympics Liaison for the last seven years and was even featured as the Fall 2017 Cop on Top Campaign cover. He will be stepping down this year and Sergeant Gomorczak and Sergeant Weibler will be taking over the program. They have already started working on 2019 fundraising events and staff expects to see big things this year.

DUPAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE CONSOLIDATION

Police Chief Gunther advised FIAT and the DuPage Major Crimes Task Force will be combining efforts to create one new task force. The new task force has tentatively been named the DuPage Metropolitan Emergency Response Investigation Team (DuMERIT). DuPage County continues to consolidate services as able in an effort to reduce taxpayer costs. Police Chief Gunther further advised he is set to become FIAT Chairman in April and will hold that position until DuMERIT becomes active in July 2019.

Police Chief Gunther further advised Westmont sent one patrol officer to the Aurora shooting incident. Westmont will have access to larger and more effective resources in the event of a large scale incident. A total of \$4,000 has been budgeted for participation in DuMERIT. The State's Attorney Office is currently reviewing the intergovernmental agreement language and should be finalized by April/May.

PILOT PROGRAM WITH DU PAGE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Gunther advised the DuPage County Health Department is looking at a pilot program to provide an immediate on site assessment for behavioral health issues and services. They are trying to provide appropriate services in a more timely manner. A memorandum of understanding is being drafted and will hopefully be finalized in the next couple of months.

OTHER BUSINESS

Police Chief Gunther thanked Chief Weiss for all the great years he served the Westmont Fire Department. He said Chief Weiss' leadership skills helped to facilitate a great working relationship between fire and police staff members.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

KURTZ PARAMEDIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

Deputy Chief Riley advised the Kurtz Paramedic Service, Inc. agreement was due to expire on April 30, 2019. The contract language provides for three consecutive one year renewal extensions with each renewal not exceeding a 2% increase. Staff is considering developing a request for proposal (RFP) before the second year renewal extension.

In the past Kurtz has sponsored several Village events such as special event bike medics, EMS tents, etc. totaling approximately \$20,000 annually. Staff is unsure whether or not they will continue to fund as Kurtz was bought out by AMR which is a nationwide company, they were previously family owned. EMS Dir. Dralle said she has noticed a big difference on how tasks and employees are managed. Some differences include duplicated training as well as punching in/out on cell phones which initially created a delay in pay.

Staff is recommending approval of the one year contract extension due to time constraints. Once additional information is obtained staff will report back to the Public Safety Committee.

STAFF STATUS AND TURN OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS

Deputy Chief Riley advised with Village Manager approval Chief Weiss appointed Lt. Kevin O'Hare and Battalion Chief Jim Fitzgerald to the ranks of interim Deputy Chief. They will be assisting with Deputy Chief Riley's workload as well as training with Deputy Chief Riley and Deputy Chief Connolly. Capt. Kevin Sievert will be replacing Battalion Chief Fitzgerald during the temporary assignments. A detailed transition plan has been developed and is being tracked in Smartsheet.

Deputy Chief Riley further advised overall staffing has been very good for the last year. At the time of scheduling almost all shifts are filled and the remaining open shifts are filled quickly. As previously reported there have been several hiring processes over the last few years. However, over the last several months the department has lost approximately 13 members and hiring continues to be a challenge. Turnover remains high due primarily to two factors - members applying for and getting hired by full time departments; and secondary employment restrictions by some full time departments. The Village Manager has approved posting for part time firefighter paramedics. Staff hopes to gain additional qualified members through the process.

HIRING EXPECTATIONS

Deputy Chief Riley advised staff is currently looking at revamping the hiring process in an effort to recruit part time members. With the current practice of hiring younger members that are likely to leave for full time employment has led to a higher turnover. Staff feels that emphasis needs to be placed on hiring part time members with the following characteristics: Not interested in full time employment; established full time member employed by a department without secondary employment restrictions; and retired firefighters wishing to extend their fire service careers.

TRANSITION PLAN - SMARTSHEET

Deputy Chief Connolly said there has been a lot of activity within the fire department over the last several months. There are currently several large projects staff members are working on completing. Staff worked with IT Manager Liljeberg and all tasks are documented in a Smartsheet. Staff is organized and confident all tasks will be completed but will take some time.

VILLAGE COMMUNICATION NEEDS / OPTIONS

Deputy Chief Connolly said discussion was held at the October 25, 2018 meeting pertaining to Emergency Communications Center (ECC) equipment. The ECC serves as the central point for communications within the Village during storms and other large-scale emergencies. In an emergency event where normal dispatch center operations could be overwhelmed calls are stacked in CAD and in the ACDC portal for dispatch and management by the local community. He said the radio console system is the link between the four console positions in the ECC and the base station radios that are located in the rear of the building. Without the radio consoles the communication resources cannot be used. The only central and reliable communications within Public Works, EMA and mutual aid agencies is through the consoles. As previously stated the equipment has experienced failures and is now beyond its useful life. The system needs to be replaced to maintain reliable ECC communications. The cost to replace the four position radio console system is approximately \$80,000 which includes PC's and monitors.

Deputy Chief Connolly further advised the base station radios are the original radios installed in 1999. These base station radios provide the primary means of communication for Public Works and EMA. These radios are also beyond their useful life and are no longer supported by Motorola and replacement parts are not available. One base station radio failed last year and remains out of service waiting for budget approval. The estimated cost to replace the four base station transmitters and four receivers is \$60,000.

Deputy Chief Connolly said the police and fire departments utilize a combination of mobile and portable Starcom radios for primary communications. ETSB provided radios approximately seven years ago to both police and fire. The fire department currently has five vehicles without Starcom radios. He further stated within the last year ETSB announced they will be converting the DuPage Starcom Radio System to TDMA to create additional capacity. ETSB will be funding the update of existing ETSB owned radios. Agencies will need to convert agency owned radios or replace them with TDMA capable radios. A total of five fire department radios will need to be upgraded with another seven to be replaced that are unable to be upgraded to TDMA. The estimated total cost is \$90,000. Staff will report back with additional information as it becomes available.

SB 37 / OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Chief Weiss advised staff continues to monitor proposed legislation pertaining to secondary employment. What was previously Senate Bill 1335 has been brought back to the floor under Senate Bill 37. The updated proposed Senate Bill includes employer and employee contributions. If approved Westmont's contributions would total approximately \$225,000 and current employee contributions would total approximately \$115,000. Senate Bill 37 is scheduled to be discussed before the Senate on March 22nd.

Chief Weiss further said the Associated Firefighter of Illinois (AFFI) was invited to participate in a conference call in an effort to discuss issues and they declined. Other proposed legislation includes fire chief requirements as well as contract medics required uniforms. Staff will continue to monitor any pending legislation and report back to the Public Safety Committee.

UPDATE ON CAD AND ALERTING SYSTEM

Deputy Chief Connolly stated DuPage ETSB is planning to implement the new county-wide CAD and fire station alerting system in June 2019. The new systems have been in the planning and implementation process for several years. ETSB provides the CAD system as well as the core FSAS system at the PSAP's and fire stations. The agencies are responsible for the mobile computers and other station equipment (PA, speakers, lighting, etc). The budget includes a total of \$75,000 which has been carrying over for quite some time. Staff anticipates expending the funds within the next few months to purchase some of the optional equipment. There is a need to continue to invest in the new system and replace more of the 20+ year old existing equipment over the next few years.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Deputy Chief Riley advised the replacement full time Deputy Chief will be appointed through the Police and Fire Commission. Staff is hoping to complete the process by July or August this year. With Village Manager approval staff would like to keep the Interim Deputy Chief positions in place until such time a replacement has been selected.

He further advised the succession plan will be updated to include the retirement of EMS Coordinator Dralle, FPB Director Kaufman and Administrative Assistant Brady within the next few years.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Captain Joe Kielczynski and Trustee Guzzo presented the 2018 Firefighter of the Year Award to Chief Weiss. Captain Kielczynski said it was an honor to present the award to such a deserving employee. Chief Weiss said it was a true honor to be awarded the 2018 Firefighter of the Year Award. He said he was accepting the award on behalf of the entire department, he said he could not do his job without all of them.

CHIEF WEISS PRESENTATION

Chief Weiss said it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Fire Chief for the last seven years. He thanked Board Members, Village Manager May and all Department Heads for their support over his career. He also thanked his brothers and sisters in blue for their continual support and encouraged them to support the new administration.

Chief Weiss further said the Emergency Agency Agency (EMA) has accomplished a lot over the years and he hopes they continue to grow over the coming years. He also thanked his wife, Diane and his daughters, Megan and Ashley for their support during his career. He looks forward to the next chapter of their lives together.

Trustee Guzzo thanked Chief Weiss and the fire department for taking care of her father, Frank Johanik when he fell ill. Mayor Gunter further expressed his appreciation for Chief Weiss' service to the Village of Westmont.

Deputy Chief Riley said the final walk out ceremony honoring Chief Weiss would be held on Friday, March 1st from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A retirement reception will also be held on Friday, March 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Oak Brook Hilton.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Weiss and Trustee Guzzo presented Firefighter Rob Sipek with a plaque honoring 40 years of dedicated service. Firefighter Sipek was hired by then Chief Frank Johanik in 1979. Firefighter Sipek expressed his appreciation for the award. He said at the time he was hired members only remained for two to three years, he managed to stay a few years past that and is a great asset to the department.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Liddle motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Nero seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary