

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, August 16, 2018 ~

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gunter, Clerk Szymski (4:42 p.m.), Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (4:37 p.m.), Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle (5:26 p.m.), Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Gunther

Also Present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, Deputy Police Chief Gruen, Deputy Police Chief Thompson, Finance Director Parker, Liquor Commissioner Mulhearn, Acting Economic Development Director Bourk and Recording Secretary Hardy

ABSENT

Trustee Addington and Trustee Nero

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MAY 24, 2018 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Barker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guzzo to approve the May 24, 2018, Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PART-TIME STAFFING SUMMARY

Fire Chief Weiss stated managing a part time system has unique staffing challenges compared to staffing a full time department. It has become difficult to staff part time systems due to several external factors and societal influences. Factors include full time departments having higher retirement rates and hiring more full time members. Once hired full time most part-time members reduce their part-time hours. Another factor includes restrictions being imposed by full time departments pertaining to secondary employment as well as potential legislative action affecting pension benefits. Fire Chief Weiss explained challenges include maintaining a adequate pool of active members, maintaining a high number of qualified medics, recruiting sufficient pool of qualified applicants as well as retaining new members.

Deputy Fire Chief Riley said stated three hiring processes have been completed in the last 3.5 years with the fourth currently in process. In 2016 a total of 55 applications were received; 23 attended orientation and 16 were eligible. In 2017 two hiring processes were conducted, the first 41 applications received; 21 attended orientation and 20 were eligible. In the second 2017 hiring process 52 applications were received, 30 attended orientation and 22 were eligible. To date 14 applications have been received for the current hiring process with orientation scheduled for September 12th. He stated in his opinion the applicants appear to be decreasing.

Mayor Gunter asked if the department is currently at maximum staffing. Deputy Fire Chief Riley advised there are currently 68 rostered but due to leave of absences there are 47 members working shifts. The maximum rostered is 70 members.

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly said PACE scheduling system is continually monitored to ensure shifts are filled. He said while a large part of hiring was due to normal replacement part was to increase staffing levels. Mayor Gunter questioned the average hours worked by an individual member. Deputy Fire Chief Connolly said approx. 700 to 1,000 hours. It varies by employee as some may work minimum and some work as many as 2,700 hours.

Fire Chief Weiss explained options included converting to a full time department, hire additional or all contract members, become part of an existing fire protection district, contract operations to a neighboring municipal department or create a larger, more efficient combination department with a neighboring department (Clarendon Hills is the only neighboring department). Trustee Barry asked if the department would prefer to be full time. Fire Chief Weiss said he would not as the part-time system has managed well and has kept taxpayer costs down. In closing he said while the department faces challenges staff remains positive the part-time system can be maintained. Staff continues to work on better ways to recruit and retain members and are always looking for new ideas.

NEW AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Deputy Fire Chief Riley said this year's budget includes a replacement ambulance for the current reserve ambulance that is over 10 years old. Several members volunteered to participate in an ambulance committee and have met twice this far. Staff anticipates a final ambulance spec by next Tuesday. A Horton fleet vehicle has been selected, a change to a larger Ford chassis may be included. He advised Fleet Maintenance has been involved in the process. Staff hopes to present a proposal at a September Village Board Meeting with approximately seven month fabrication turnaround.

UPDATES:

NORTH FIRE DISTRICT

Fire Chief Weiss said at its August 13th meeting the County Board appointed Attorney Mike Phillip as the North Fire District trustee. He is now the only member authorized to take any fire district action. A North Fire District meeting is scheduled for October.

FIRE STATION ALERTING

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly stated most DuPage County agencies are alerting using 1960s technology as well as 20+ year old equipment. It is difficult to maintain and does not offer flexibility and reliability provide by modern IP based equipment. He said DuPage ETSB solicited bids for a county-wide fire station alerting system. Three vendors submitted bids with ETSB awarding a \$3.6 million contract to Purvis as the low bidder. The contract covers 67 DuPage County fire stations and provides automated fire dispatching for all stations from both PSAPs that dispatch fire (ACDC and DuComm) through one FSA system integrated with the new CAD system. The new system should shorten dispatch times and significantly reduce the time it takes to obtain mutual aid assistance.

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly advised the core system installation is scheduled to begin in September with Westmont Fire Department being the first installation. Installation for all stations is scheduled to be completed by early 2019 and go live and operational in February 2019. He said ETSB is providing the core equipment which includes PSAP equipment and basic receiving equipment (server, CTS, strobe lights, 3 reader boards and turn out timer) at each fire station. Agencies will be responsible for purchase and maintenance of optional equipment purchased from Purvis (additional reader boards, replacement speakers, UPS, lights, etc.). Staff anticipates approximately \$75,000 in optional equipment for both fire stations.

Deputy Chief Connolly said agencies are responsible for providing 110v electrical power to the server and certain devices. While surveying stations with electrical contractors several electrical issues were noted and need to be corrected. He said while Facilities personnel are capable of completing the work, they would not be able to complete in the required timeframe. Quotes were solicited from two vendors with the contractor performing the Purvis instal being less expensive with a quote of \$24,000. In closing, he said Wesmont and all DuPage County fire agencies should have a reliable and efficient, state of the art fire station alerting system that should operate for several decades.

ACCREDITATION ACR

Deputy Fire Chief Riley advised the Accreditation Manager responsibilities have been assigned to Battalion Chief Fitzgerald. The Annual Compliance Report (ACR) was filed the end of July. A conference call with an Assessor will be conducted on August 22nd.

LEGISLATIVE

Fire Chief Weiss said there do not appear to be any legislative issues at the current time. Staff will advise as to any updates. Village Manager May further advised Trustee Addington also sits on a legislative committee and will advise of any upcoming legislation.

ACDC

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly advised ACDC's new dispatch center went operational in April which included consolidating personnel from the temporary center at Tri-State FPD. Staff continues to work with ACDC through monthly Police and Fire Chiefs meetings to resolve issues. ACDC also conducts quality control on several hundred calls per month including all call where we inquiries are submitted. He said they are generally responsive and take corrective action. They are also working hard to recruit and retain new dispatchers. There are currently several openings they are working diligently to fill.

Deputy Chief Connolly further said ACDC is making significant investments in microwave and radio systems. By the end of 2018 they should have microwave connectivity to each agency they dispatch. In addition, ACDC has invested approximately \$1 million in conventional radio systems including VHF fire dispatch and police 800 MHz back up radio systems which should be operational late 2018.

95TH ANNIVERSARY

Fire Chief Weiss said the 95th Anniversary Committee is working hard and moving forward with several ideas for the Open House celebration. Staff is also working on a mural to be displayed at Headquarters Station.

KIDS CAMP AND CRUISIN NIGHT

Deputy Fire Chief Riley said the June and July Kids Camps were a great success. Over 30 children attended each session and had a blast. Their favorite parts were the water fight and bike safety. Free helmets were provided to any child not owning a helmet.

Deputy Fire Chief Riley said the August 9th Fire Department Cruisin Night was a huge success with 25 departments attending and 42 vehicles in the lights and sirens parade. Even with cutting the event short due to approaching bad weather it was still very well attended and all ran smoothly. He thanked the Village for their support and Trustee Liddle for facilitating the parade retiree float. Fire Chief Weiss added that approximately 14 retirees attended the event and staff hopes to continue including additional retirees in future events.

9/11 SERVICE

Fire Chief Weiss advised the 9/11 Memorial Service would be held on Tuesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. at 500 N. Cass Ave. Staff is hoping for a good turnout to this popular event.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Fire Chief Riley said a free replacement Emergency Management Agency trailer was procured through the Department of Defense surplus program. This allowed for \$8,000 in replacement costs to be removed from the current budget. The existing trailer will be utilized by the Public Works Department.

Mayor Gunter asked what other items were obtained through the Department of Defense program. Chief Weiss said two Snap-On Tool cases, severe weather gear, training trailer, light sticks, uniforms, generators and other various small items have been obtained.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ACTIVE SHOOTER / HOSTILE EVENT RESPONSE (ASHER) PROTOCOL

Police Chief Gunther distributed a handout outlining the Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response Protocol otherwise known as ASHER. Attention has been given to the program as emergency situations have evolved over the years. He explained the new response model has officers entering as they arrive on scene. Previously officers would await entry. The current protocol states the Police Department will enter to stop the threat and the Fire Department will enter to save lives.

He said the ASHER protocol takes the next logical step with the establishment of cold, warm and hot zones. The Fire Department has agreed to enter warm zones with law enforcement protection. Trustee Guzzo asked if Fire Department members would be outfitted with bullet proof vests. Fire Chief Weiss advised bullet proof vests are presently on all apparatus but they do not have protective helmets. Staff is investigating options available to obtain the protective gear. Trustee Guzzo asked that the protective gear be included on the October 25, 2018 Public Safety Agenda for budgeting purposes.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP

Deputy Police Chief Gruen said the National Night Out event was held on August 2nd in conjunction with Cruisin Night. There were approximately 10 organizations handing out information. He said it was a good turnout but less than the previous year. Staff will be evaluating the event in an effort to improve next years event.

STAFFING UPDATE

Police Chief Gunther advised the Police Department has reached a milestone and is now fully staffed. He said three new officers will be graduating from the Police Academy on August 24th and one additional officer will begin the Police Academy on August 27th. He will be the 40th member of the Police Department.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Deputy Police Chief Thompson advised the Citizen's Police Academy is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26th through Wednesday, December 5th. A press release will be issued and staff is hoping to fill the class. Applications can be found on the Village's website. He asked for assistance with spreading the word to all area residents.

ILLINOIS SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

Deputy Police Chief Gruen advised to date the Village of Westmont has raised \$6,610 for Special Olympics this year. In an effort to raise additional funds shred event is planned for Saturday, October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 500 N. Cass Ave. He further advised Expressions Dance Studio presented a \$775 Special Olympics donation at the Taste of Westmont.

BICYCLE PATROL REVIEW

Police Chief Gunther said Police staff wanted to focus on getting bike officers on the street this year. The program has received a lot of positive feedback and residents appear to like the it especially at the train depot.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Police Chief Thompson advised a new payment box has been installed at the Police Department. Residents will be able to drop off water bills, etc at that location. Staff feels this is a benefit as residents will now have another option for drop offs.

Police Chief Gunther said there was a DUMEG arrest in July. An undercover drug purchase was conducted in the Westmont Village Apartments. During the operation a substantial amount of drugs as well as a gun and ammunition were seized. He explained this was a substantial arrest which took a lot of undercover work. DUMEG completes a lot of training and are very active in Westmont.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Liddle motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Barker seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary