

MINUTES OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
January 28, 2016 – 9:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair
 Councilor Denis Messier, Vice Chair
 Councilor Jennifer Soldati
 Councilor Jessica Paradis

Administration/Staff Present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Director of Finance, Scott Smith
 Fire Chief, Keith Hoyle
 Police Chief Dean Crombie
 Police Captain, David Kretschmar

Other: American Ambulance, Paul Robidas

Councilor Pepin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Pepin to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

POLICE CRUISER SUV – PRE ORDER

City Manager Belmore referred to the memo outlining the cost of purchasing a new Chevy Tahoe or Ford Utility Vehicle. Stated that these are just base prices and there would be additional costs to properly outfit the vehicles. Stated that lots of other departments are buying SUVs for their fleets and that Dover has several. Stated that he asked Finance Director Smith to look into leasing vehicles and looked at the CIP to see what the City's vehicle needs are. Stated that there are several vehicles that need to be replaced and that he wants his employees to have the proper tools to get their job done.

Director of Finance Smith stated that the CIP calls for the replacement of some City vehicles and the total cost would be close to \$400,000. Stated that he looked into leasing the vehicles instead of purchasing them outright and that he would recommend the three year lease.

City Manager Belmore referred to the memo from Director of Finance Smith showing the estimated purchase prices versus leasing the same vehicles.

Councilor Pepin asked if there is a cost savings at the end. Director Smith stated there would be a financing charge.

Councilor Paradis stated that there would be a savings on maintenance overtime.

Councilor Messier stated that he supports the purchase or lease of the Ford Utility vehicle. Stated that if Somersworth changes to SUVs then they are most likely going to keep using them. Stated that many local communities are starting to use SUVs now. Asked if maintenance would be included in the lease agreements if the City started leasing vehicles.

Director of Finance Smith stated that the City would be responsible for the maintenance.

Councilor Paradis stated that this is a great price for a SUV.

Motion made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis to support the pre-ordering of a Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. . The Committee will sponsor a Resolution for full City Council consideration.

UPDATES FROM POLICE/FIRE/EMS

Police Department:

Police Chief Crombie stated that they have purchased the level three holsters which make it more difficult for someone other than the officer to take the service weapon out of the holster. Stated that they also got new Second Chance Vests.

Police Officer Nate Howard stated that the former holster that they used only had a snap to hold the weapon into place, which wasn't very secure. He showed the new level three holster and explained how it works. Stated that it is nearly impossible for someone else to get the weapon out of the holster. Stated that the new holster is more secure and enables the officer to focus solely on safety and dealing with the suspect.

Council Soldati asked if there have been situations in the past when a suspect has gotten an officer's weapon out of the holster.

Police Chief Crombie stated that no one has gotten the weapon out but there have been incidents where the weapon was part way out or jarred loose. Asked Officer Howard to explain the new vest.

Officer Howard showed the Committee the new uniform vest which can accommodate their bullet proof vest and explained that the bullet proof vests used to be worn under the uniform but this one is worn on top inside the vest. Stated that this keeps the vest off of bare skin and is more comfortable and less restricting. Stated that this allows for a better range of motion.

Police Captain Kretschmar stated that the panels of the vest can be open to allow air to circulate.

Officer Howard stated that the vest also has extra pockets so they can carry more resources with them. Stated that the vests look like the uniform so you can't tell that the vest is on.

Councilor Pepin thanked Officer Howard for the demonstration.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Hoyle stated that two fire fighter vacancies have recently been filled and that there are three new call fire fighters. Stated that there is money left over from a grant and that they would like to hire three more at no cost to the City. Stated that the overtime budget is shot and that they can't maintain four on duty fire fighters at night at this level.

Councilor Messier asked if either of the two fire fighters that were recently hired were previously call fire fighters.

Police Chief Hoyle stated that they were career fire fighters. Stated that there was recently a fire on Grand Street and that the Fire, Police and EMS departments did a great job.

EMS:

Mr. Robidas stated that they are in the planning stages of doing a school-wide CPR training in April or May. Stated that they are also planning and meeting with school staff for the Fatal Reality Program. Stated that they want to use a different theme this year.

Councilor Messier asked if they show the students how to use the AED machine.

Mr. Robidas replied yes and stated that there is an AED machine in every school building. Stated that they are working with the City on becoming a Heart Safe Community with an AED machine in every building with public gatherings.

Councilor Messier asked if the AED machine at the high school is just for the athletics or the entire building.

Captain Kretschmar stated that they haven't talked about the dynamics yet but that he doesn't think there will be a problem with sharing the AED machine with the Recreation Department in the summer and placing it in the Recreation building.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Pepin stated that he recently heard a resident speak about water running down a sidewalk and creating a slipping hazard in front of 45 Market Street. Stated that he talked with the business owner and she said she has contacted the City and that the water pools in front of the doorway. Asked whose responsibility it would be if someone slipped and fell.

City Manager Belmore stated that he will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Gora, Planning Secretary