

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
June 28, 2016 – 2:00 P.M.**

Committee Members Present:	Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair Councilor Denis Messier Councilor Jennifer Soldati Councilor Jessica Paradis
Staff:	City Manager, Bob Belmore Finance Director, Scott Smith Chief Dave Kretschmar Chief Keith Hoyle
Other:	Paul Robidas, American Ambulance

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The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

**Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

*Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, moved to approve the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.*

**Review Police Department Purchases**

• **JAG Grant and Drug Forfeiture Funds**

Police Chief Kretschmar reported on the yearly Justice Assistance Grant, which currently totals \$37,007, to be received between Rochester and Somersworth. Somersworth will receive 5% of Rochester's total for acting as fiscal agent for the grant. . Somersworth proposed to use its \$14,390 to fund Taser Training Caps (\$1,486), and Cruiser Fleet IT Purchase, (\$12,904). The IT purchase will be first for Cradlepoint IBR Modems and then equipping them with scanners and printers for the State's new e-ticket system, (about \$1200 additional money will be needed, the difference is proposed to come from drug forfeiture funds). City Manager Belmore said that this will need to go to the full Council to accept the grant.

*Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Soldati, made a motion that the Public Safety Committee support a resolution to accept the JAG grant with expenditures as listed. The motion passed.*

Chief Kretschmar wants to use Drug Forfeiture Funds for bullet proof vests and spare weapons. They want to upgrade outdated vests for people with more than 5 years of service and for new hires, (20 officers). Each vest is \$785. The chief gave some information concerning the interplay between high protection and comfort. The officers are required to wear vests everyday. The cost to outfit the whole department, 28 officers,

would be less than \$21,000. ***Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to purchase 28 new vests by State bid. The motion passed.***

Councilor Paradis wondered what happens to old vests. The Chief said that they used to be sent overseas, but now there is no program in place. They might give them to American Ambulance. Paul Robidas said they could keep a couple on each ambulance. The Committee thought that was good.

Chief Kretschmar then spoke about the request to use Drug Forfeiture Funds to purchase spare service weapons. They are proposing to purchase 3 Sig Sauer weapons at \$644.30 each. ***Councilor Messier made a motion to support the spare service weapons purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis and passed.*** The City Manager said they will also take this to the Finance Committee.

Police cruiser designs for Somersworth vehicles were discussed. The purchase of two new black and white Ford Explorer SUV cruisers has been approved by Council for the upcoming budget; the PD will schedule the equipment switch-over for August.

### **Updates**

- **Police Department**

Two new officers have started field training. Grant positions are not yet filled. They will have two openings. Dispatch interviews are this week.

Councilor Pepin wondered how AC/Parking Enforcement is going. The Chief answered that officer is dispatching now. Councilor Pepin said that they had a student last year.

Councilor Paradis commented that children at the Festival wanted to see officers on horses.

- **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Hoyle reported that there are now 16 full time firefighters, not including the Chief. All five senior people applied for the Lieutenant position. The list from the SAFER Act Grant is now complete.

COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) Grants will soon be available for municipalities to get consultant help with relocating municipal facilities/services disrupted by disaster. The committee also considered secondary and tertiary places, particularly American ambulance and the SAU building.

The City Manager asked the committee to sponsor resolutions for two CIP resolutions. ***Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to support resolutions for SCBA , radios and hoses. The motion passed.***

The Fire Station Advisory Committee will meet Thursday.

The Fire Department needs more information, owner's phone numbers, etc., for inspecting 3+ multi-family buildings for smoke and CO detectors, windows, etc. The Chief said that Portsmouth is having the same problem. He listed some buildings which are up to Code. The Chief got a call from the National Guard about a tower. CM Belmore said to have them contact Shanna Saunders.

- **Ambulance Service**

Paul Robidas reported that he has talked with Chief Kretschmar about the vests. They may be able to do active shooter training in August. The budget meetings look good. They will order a new ambulance next August. They ordered two ambulances to back up the city with Frisbie Hospital. Last Friday they had 18 calls: transports. At peak hours they have 6 vehicles, 3 in the evenings and 2 overnight. He reported that staff volunteered for two recent events: the Children's Festival and Mr. Millers Saturday event. It has been busy, he said.

Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

*Councilor Messier moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paradis. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.*

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Elise B. Brelis, Deputy City Clerk