

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
April 17, 2019, 5:00pm

Committee Members present:      Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman  
   Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent  
   Councilor Edward Levasseur (entered at 5:18)  
   Councilor Nancie Cameron

Administration/Staff present:      City Manager, Bob Belmore  
   Police Chief, David Kretschmar  
   Fire Chief, Keith Hoyle  
   City Clerk, Trish Harris

Other:                                      Paul Robidas, Stewart's Ambulance Service

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Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chief Kretschmar gave a report on staffing and programs of the Police Department.

For staffing, he stated that they currently have one opening; an offer has been made to a candidate. There is also one individual in academy who will graduate on Friday, April 26, and one in FTO.

Community events:

- Drug Take Back Day, Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Touch a Truck, Army National Guard, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
- Summersworth Historical Society First Responder Appreciation Day, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
- Somersworth Middle School Law Enforcement Day, Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

K9, Bravo, is in week 4 of training at the Boston K9 Academy. Chief Kretschmar shared a video of Bravo doing an article search.

Chief Kretschmar gave a report on some recent action of seized fire arms and narcotics.

He reported that they applied for a grant through the US Attorney office; Project Safe Neighborhood, which targets gun crime and will allow for extra police coverage with grant

overtime funds. City Manager Belmore stated that as part of the grant process, Chief Kretschmar went to a training in Kansas City which was paid for by the grant.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS UPDATES

#### EMS

Paul Robidas said he is getting back into the EMS operations for the City. Stewart's Ambulance has started with public education; stop the bleed CPR training in the middle school and they will be starting CPR and AED training for City staff soon.

Councilor Vincent asked if all of the kids (at the SMS) are now certified. Robidas said they get a certificate. They are capable of doing CPR.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING & OPERATIONS

Chief Hoyle handed out a printed presentation, along with a list of reviewed items and photos that coincides with the presentation. The presentation and other documents are on file.

Regarding #6, Equipment, Councilor Vincent asked about the thermal imaging units. He had heard that they may be incorporated into the masks at some point.

Chief Hoyle agreed that this will happen at some point.

Regarding #8, Budget, the reduction in 2019 is due to decrease in health insurance premium costs for employees. They still have the same amount of staffing.

Regarding #9, Emergency Responses, the fire department has assisted neighboring communities 67 times and other communities came to assist Somersworth 11 times in 2017-2018.

Regarding #11 Ongoing Training, City Manager Belmore said a training room will be in the new station. Training is also provided at Concord, Primex and other regional training in various communities.

Councilor Pepin said local training and field training is important for new fire fighters to adapt to the operations of the community. He feels it is important for an assistant chief to oversee standardized training.

Chief Hoyle said there is a Department training manual that they are continually updating. Stewart's also offers CPR CEUs for the EMTs.

Regarding #12, Fire Prevention, Councilor Pepin asked if there are any inspections on current systems. Chief Hoyle said only if the previous company inspector sends the reports.

Councilor Vincent said there are a few communities where the building inspector is through the fire department. Belmore stated the City had discussed this model that Dover does and perhaps Bedford NH. It was clarified that this is not the case in Somersworth; without being fully staffed, it would be too much for one Chief to supervise.

Regarding Budget Recommendations, there was lengthy discussion about the need for a Deputy Fire Chief.

Councilor Vincent said he would like to see a cost analysis for full time deputy and secretary/assistant. Councilor Pepin agreed, and stated after we have a cost, we can work on a plan to get there. He also wanted to see what the cost would be having four firefighters on at all times. City Manager Belmore said they will come up with some initial costs to present to the Committee at a future date.

***Consensus of the committee was to work toward a Deputy Chief, full time Assistant and fully manning all shifts.***

Councilor Pepin said the Mayor requested that this be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee. He is hoping to get to the point of more staffing and a fully equipped, up to date department. He would like to see coverage of 4 on at all times. It is also important that they keep up on inspections; presently the chief does inspections on new companies.

Pepin mentioned that the Mayor requested a report by September.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Councilor Vincent seconded by Councilor Cameron made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed, 4-0. The meeting adjourned 5:54pm.***

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Harris, City Clerk