

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**October 5, 2016 – 3:00 P.M.**

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

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The meeting was called to order at 2:57 pm.

**Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

*Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Paradis, moved to approve the minutes of the June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Motion carried, 3-0.*

**Updates**

- **Police Department**

Chief Kretschmar announced that the new pickup truck has been acquired and explained the features on it. Stated it will primarily be used for parking enforcement. Councilor Messier stated he would like to see a bed liner put in to preserve the truck. He also inquired if the animal control officer would be using the truck. The Chief answered yes and the cages would be secured in the back of the truck.

Chief Kretschmar stated that the Somersworth Police Facebook page has been created. He stated there has been a quiet roll out for a week or so and they will now be pushing it. He also stated that all posts criticizing the City will be deleted and the person will be blocked. Councilor Paradis stated she could promote this through the Vision 2020 Facebook page as well.

Chief Kretschmar announced that the Community Access to Recovery (CAR) is in full swing and has been utilized twice now. He stated its typical operation is Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. However, they will not turn anyone away and accepted someone this past weekend. He stated this has already been a success.

Chief Kretschmar stated that the “Chiefs Park and Walk” will be starting next week. He stated that once a week he will be taking a block within the City and will enter the businesses to speak with the owners, employees, patrons, etc. He is hopeful for a positive

reaction and will put announcements on Facebook and Channel 22. Councilor Paradis stated this will give the impression that the Chief is just a neighbor that everyone should be friends with and that it would be great for the parks also. Councilor Messier stated this is great for community outreach.

- **Fire Department**

Chief Hoyle stated that effective next Tuesday Mike Spinney will be promoted to lieutenant. Councilor Messier inquired if this was to replace Vincent. Chief Hoyle stated the Spinney will replace Valencourt and Moore replaced Vincent. He then explained the hierarchy of the Fire Department.

Chief Hoyle mentioned that the Safer Act is done and they are awaiting final payment from FEMA to end the grant. This grant helped bring the force up to 17. Chief Hoyle stated that the Continuity of Operations grant, is awaiting a new representative from NH Homeland Security to pursue. The grant will allow the Fire Department to put together a contingency plan for municipal buildings in case a manmade or natural disaster occurs at one.

Chief Hoyle stated that all capital items have all been delivered and allocated.

Chief Hoyle stated their annual open house is next Saturday from 10am-2pm. American Ambulance, Somersworth Police, NH Division of Forest and Lands and Vision 2020 will be there.

Chief Hoyle mentioned that their inspection program has begun for 3 family and above units. Letters went out to 330 homeowners last week. He stated they had issues with obtaining landlord information and have partnered with City Clerk's office to help with the landlord info. He mentioned that Rochester is doing same thing, however it will take 10-12 years, because not using the line companies like we are. Councilor Pepin stated that knowing the layout of the buildings helps with preplanning in the case of an emergency and this will help with building violations. Chief Hoyle stated he already works closely with the building inspector. Councilor Paradis inquired if they have a computer program to pull everything up quickly. Chief Hoyle stated they are in training this week for that and they will have a tablet and printer in the engine.

- **Ambulance Service**

City Manager Belmore stated that Paul Robidas was unable to attend the meeting; however he had no new updates to report. It was mentioned that there is a replacement for the second in command at American Ambulance, who will be introduced at an upcoming City meeting.

### Miscellaneous

Chief Kretschmar added that the new vests have come in and have been distributed.

Councilor Messier asked for a police staffing update. Chief Kretschmar stated they are only 1 short right now. He stated there are 3 in the academy with a December 16<sup>th</sup> graduation. He also mentioned there was a new employee that started Monday, and he previously worked for the UNH Police Department.

Councilor Pepin inquired about the new cruisers. Chief Kretschmar stated that they are working out and stressed that getting in and out of them is much easier and cleaner.

Councilor Paradis inquired if the Police and Fire Departments go to the career day at the High School. Chief Kretschmar mentioned they do if they are called. He stated last year they were not asked. Chief Hoyle added that due to a grant the Fire Department has a cabinet in the High School in regards to a career in firefighting.

#### Adjournment

***Councilor Pardis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Messier. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.***

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Darcy Moore, Code/Assessing Clerk