

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CITY STAFF PARTICIPATED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
VIDEO CONFERENCE
April 21, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members present	Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
via Zoom:	Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent, Vice Chairman
	Councilor Crystal Paradis
	Councilor Nancie Cameron

Administration/Staff present	City Manager Bob Belmore
via Zoom:	Police Chief David Kretschmar
	Fire Chief George Kramlinger
	Deputy City Clerk Ammy Ramsey

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

As Chairman of the Somersworth Public Safety Committee, I, Councilor Martin Pepin find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public was asked to submit comments via email to jslaven@somersworth.com or bbelmore@somersworth.com by Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-1 by roll call vote. Councilor Paradis abstained.

EMS REPORT – STEWART'S AMBULANCE

City Manager Belmore stated that Mr. Robidas asked to be excused from the meeting due to a family emergency.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Kramlinger stated that his monthly report included information of what has transpired for the month of March. Kramlinger also mentioned that the ice rescue was successful and the recent training contributed to that success.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: NATIONAL ACCREDITATION & BODY CAMS

Manager Belmore stated that he and Chief Kretschmar have been discussing National Accreditation and Police Body Cams and they feel that focusing on one of these is recommended and their thoughts are to focus on a body cam program at this time. Councilor Vincent inquired about any programs or grants that the State offers that would contribute to the purchase of body cams. Chief Kretschmar stated that he is not aware of any at this time. Councilor Pepin asked if we would be looking to budget for this program in the next budget cycle. Belmore stated that it would take several months to look at the various vendor programs and bring a company in to explain their program. He mentioned that at that time we might know if any State or Federal grant funding might be available. The consensus of the Committee is to move forward with the focus on body cams and gathering information to present to this Committee.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to support City Staff to prepare a presentation for the purchase of body cams for the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Manager Belmore informed the Committee that Engine 2 was put on GovDeals and only received a top bid of \$4,300.00. The Finance Committee suggested listing Engine 2 again on GovDeals or exploring junking Engine 2. Belmore stated that we received an estimate of \$5,500 to junk the apparatus.

Councilor Pepin inquired about hiring to reduce overtime costs. Manager Belmore mentioned that they have examined this issue in the past and after figuring out the expenses of hiring it does not always help with the cost of overtime. There was some discussion pertaining to the reasons overtime is higher than others.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk