

MINUTES OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

February 14, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.

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

Staff Present: Bob Belmore City Manager
Police Chief David Kretschmar
Fire Chief Keith Hoyle
Brenda Ann Breda Executive Assistant

Others present: Paul Robidas General Manager
American Ambulance

John Cody Operations Manager
American Ambulance

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0. Councilor Soldati abstained.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. SUV Purchase – Resolution No. 28-17

City Manager Belmore said some of these items were discussed and approved at the Finance Committee last week pending this Committee's review. Chief Kretschmar gave a review of his February 3rd memo to the City Manager noting that if we wait for the Budget to pass we could be confronted with a lack of available police vehicles. After some discussion, a motion to support the Resolution was made by Councilor Paradis, seconded by Councilor Soldati. Passed 4-0.

b. Department Updates

City Manager Belmore stated there was a memo from Chief Kretschmar with the prior Council Resolution regarding acceptance of a JAG Grant that had been approved. Belmore wanted to bring to the Council attention that some components of the Grant had changed. Chief Kretschmar said the City received monies in the JAG Grant for an E-Ticket system and then the State of NH gave us a Grant to purchase the E-Ticket system. Therefore, the Chief wanted to reallocate some of the JAG funding to purchase 10 new rifles which will be put in cruisers. The

Chief explained that presently we have a mix of rifles which we would trade-in towards the purchase, standardizing the make and model of the rifles will aid in both the training and safety of our officers. Kretschmar mentioned that the Finance Committee had approved the purchase of an unmarked police vehicle with drug forfeiture funds as a replacement to a present vehicle that had repair costs beyond its' life expectancy. Motion by Paradis, second by Messier to support the purchase, approved 4-0. Chief Kretschmar informed the Committee that we have secured a \$6,000 Grant to buy Plate Carrier Vests. The Committee was unanimous in supporting the Grant acceptance as there was no City required match.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chief Hoyle noted that Lt. Houle retired and Jim Drakopoulos was sworn as Lt. We currently are at full staff. Chief also noted that earlier in the month we had 2 fires 4 hours apart. One fire at Union Street and the other at Blackwater Road. One fire was kids playing with matches and the other was started by a discarded cigarette.

AMERICAN AMBULANCE

a. Introduction

Paul Robidas introduced John Cody as Operations Manager.

b. Updates

Paul noted American Ambulance is undergoing a Re-accreditation Process this year. Paul said they have purchased 2 new AED's for the City to replace 2 older ones at the Police Department. All City Buildings will now be equipped with AED's. Councilor Messier asked if every Police Cruiser has one, Chief Kretschmar said yes. John Cody noted that the units are checked every month to make sure they are working. Paul Robidas also said the AA response time is at about 4 minutes and he is really happy with this response time since it is well under the 8-minute requirement. There was discussion regarding opioid response incidents.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Paradis asked about the "Tent Signs" to put in the middle of High Street to slow traffic at pedestrian crossings. It was suggested perhaps it was a Traffic Safety Committee issue. It was also mentioned it had been done in the past with little success.

Councilor Soldati mentioned High Street sidewalks needed to be plowed to keep pedestrians off the streets. City Manager Belmore stated he had sent Councilors an update on storm response issues and plans to address sidewalks and other snow removal concerns.

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Soldati. The motion passed, 4-0, and the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda A. Breda, Executive Assistant