

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
March 22, 2023 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman Councilor Denis Messier Councilor Nancie Cameron
Committee Members Absent:	Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent, Vice-Chairman
Administration/Staff present:	City Manager Bob Belmore Finance Director Scott Smith Police Chief Timothy McLin Fire Chief George Kramlinger Stewarts Ambulance Manager Paul Robidas City Clerk Kristen LaPanne

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Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

***Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-0.***

FIRE, EMS, & POLICE UPDATES

Police Chief McLin reported on the Department's staffing and stated that they currently have six open positions; three officers are in the Police Academy training and scheduled to graduate at the end of April. Chief McLin explained the School Resource Officer and Detective are assisting with coverage of patrol hours and City staff continue their efforts to hire officers.

Chief McLin reported that the Police Department has put their new unmarked police vehicle to good use and the City's proposed CIP recommends new vehicles in upcoming years. Chief McLin stated that all officers have completed their annually mandated trainings and he mentioned that officers have additional training in substance abuse use and investigations.

Chief McLin stated that there will be a training provided by Motorola on the body worn cameras, the implementation is expected to take place in May following the training. The new dispatch radio console has been ordered and staff will receive training on the new equipment. Chief McLin stated that the Department is expecting that the wellness uniforms and bulletproof vests be delivered next week.

EMS Manager Robidas reported that staffing remains a challenge as well as hospital emergency room offloading of patients is also challenging; he added that both hospitals and nursing homes continue to struggle with staffing and bed availability. Mr. Robidas stated that staff and attorneys continue to work on the Employee Stock Ownership Plan which should be completed by June or July.

Councilor Messier mentioned an article that stated hospitals are recruiting EMS and wondered if Mr. Robidas has noticed this within his staffing. Mr. Robidas reported it has been happening but not significantly, adding, however, that losing one or two staff can be difficult.

Fire Chief Kramlinger reported that the extrication tools have been purchased using the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant, he added that the staff have been receiving training on the new tools.

#### FIRE/LIFE SAFETY CODES INSPECTIONS

Chief Kramlinger provided the Committee with a memorandum pertaining to Multi-Family Occupancy Fire & Life Safety Inspections. He added that staff are not be allowed to enter apartments without permission from the tenants unless there was an emergency.

Councilor Pepin explained that the Fire Department used to do inspections on multi-family apartments which was found to be beneficial in their preplanning to know where everything was in case of a fire within the building. He added that if the City of Somersworth continued to incorporate inspections, perhaps code issues could be caught early on. Chief Kramlinger stated that the Fire Department does work closely with Code Enforcement to ensure safety as well as engaging with the City Manager and Fire Marshall where significant safety concerns arise.

Chief Kramlinger stated that the Fire Department still has a vibrant inspection program regarding the certificate of occupancy process, building inspections and other inspections as listed in the memorandum. Councilor Pepin noted that there has been an increase in calls for service since he was on the Fire Department. Chief Kramlinger added that with the increase in calls, it increases their presence in the City where they can see more of what is going on as well as offering safety tips and the need for smoke detectors to residents.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Kramlinger provided the Committee with a Thermal Imager Recommendation memorandum. City Manager Belmore stated that the cost of the Thermal Imager is within his spending authority and looking for the Committees approval to move forward with a purchase.

***Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the City Manager to purchase the recommended Thermal Imagers as presented by Chief Kramlinger for a cost of \$11,125. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-0.***

Chief Kramlinger reported that the final inspection of the new Pierce Fire Pumper is complete and will continue to be outfitted in Massachusetts over the next couple of weeks. He stated that training of the new apparatus will take place over a two-week period before it is put into use by the Department.

There was a brief update regarding a 911 call that required the Fire Department to request coverage from neighboring City and Town first responders to ensure safety of the resident in need of transport and to the staff that responded to the call.

#### ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Messier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk