

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
May 30, 2018, 4:30pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
 Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent, Vice Chair
 Councilor Edward Levasseur

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Police Chief, David Kretschmar
 Fire Chief Keith Hoyle
 American Ambulance Chief, Paul Robidas
 Deputy City Clerk, Kelly Gagne

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Levasseur, seconded by Councilor Vincent made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2018 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

UPDATES FROM THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS, & EMS

Police Update -

The K9 program hopes to have the grant application completed by June 8th along with the Policy Development completed by June 15th. The selection of the handler will begin the week of June 18th. Handler training through The Working Dog Foundation will begin the 1st week in July. The process is about 5 months to complete, first handling and then tracking training is completed. The K9 vehicle will be completely outfitted and operational by the end of July.

Councilor Vincent asked if this is covered by the grant. The dog is covered by the Grant, the City has budgeted \$16,000, which will be used for boarding dog when the handler is on vacation and outfitting the car etc.

Organizational structure update: Chief Kretschmar stated that there are currently two Lieutenant Positions within the Police Department, one being a Patrol Lieutenant and the other being a Detective Lieutenant. Chief has recommended that the position of Detective Lieutenant be eliminated and that a Patrol Officer be reassigned to a Detective's position in the Investigations Unit. City Manager indicated he has approved the Chief's plan.

Fire Update-

The NH HSEM Grant, in the amount of \$11,327, was obtained to pay for Fire/Police overtime for the NH/Maine Rural Water Associations hazardous materials drill.

The Active Shooters Equipment Grant was initially rejected by NH HSEM. Chief Hoyle called the Director and he was told there are still 24 grants available so we may get a second consideration. This Grant is for protective vests for Firefighters to wear when accessing "hot zones" with active shooters.

Somersworth Fire personnel trained on the river last Thursday, May 24th, with Berwick Fire. There will be a tabletop exercise on May 31st. A full exercise on the Salmon Falls River will take place on June 21st.

EMS Update-

Chief Robidas indicated that the last quarterly response time was 4:03.

MISC

The Fire Department is moving forward with hiring another call Firefighter.

The Police Department is down two Police Officers.

Councilor Pepin asked how we are doing with the Fire station project update. Manager Belmore stated he signed a contract with MRI with the Finance Committees approval. A representative from MRI will meet with Department heads and tour the City, etc in a couple of weeks.

Chairman Pepin asked if the Committee could meet with the consultants. Belmore indicated he will check and see if we can do a Committee meeting or perhaps a workshop presentation to the full Council, or both.

Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Levasseur, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk