

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
February 12, 2020 @ 4:30pm

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

Administration/Staff present:        City Manager Bob Belmore  
  Police Chief David Kretschmar  
  Finance Director Scott Smith  
  City Clerk Trish Harris  
  Paul Robidas, Stewarts Ambulance

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Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Councilor Vincent. The motion passed 4-0.*

POLICE – FIRE – EMS UPDATES

Police Update – City Manager Belmore stated that the Finance Committee voted to sponsor a Resolution to the full Council to support the COPS hiring grant application, which will be introduced on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There is a memo from Finance Director Smith explaining that this grant is for cost sharing over a three-year period for two new officers. The City received this same grant and hired a new officer a few years back.

Chief Kretschmar stated that he recently talked with an aide to Senator Shaheen. The aide said to forward everything to him to get a letter from the Senator in support of the grant. Chief Kretschmar stated that they are looking at a community policing officer; an officer to work with people in their homes as part of the ACE program (Adverse Childhood Experiences), to follow up to get services that they may need. This officer will be involved in community events, in charge of organizing events like Coffee with a Cop and other outreach events. The new officer will also be assigned to patrol.

Chief Kretschmar reported that there is currently one officer in the Academy and one officer just beginning his field training. This leaves one open position, and they currently have one potential candidate.

The Crime Scene Unit will be ready for pick up then end of this month.

K9 Bravo has been in 5-week narcotic detection training through the Boston Police K-9 Academy. Bravo and Officer Deschene will be certified as a Patrol and Narcotics Detection K-9 Unit.

Manager Belmore read a Memo from Chief Hoyle regarding Fire Department Updates such as Brush truck bid was awarded to Eastern Fire Apparatus. Two-way Communication will be installing the lights.

Warming center policy and procedures was finalized and put into action in January.

Three call firefighters departed.

Active shooter gear was procured from grants from the state.

Still waiting on word on the grant to proceed with the purchase of the emergency generator at the top of Hilltop School to power the police/fire radios.

### COPS GRANT APPLICATION

***Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Vincent, made a motion to support the COPS grant. The motion passed, 4-0.***

### FIRE STATION DESIGN REVIEW

City Manager Belmore reported that there is a grant available for approximately \$150,000 for equipping any new EOC. The training room in the new fire station could double as the emergency operation center (EOC). Police Chief Kretschmar stated his support in moving it from the PD as this is an opportunity to do this the right way.

There was lengthy discussion about the bid and bond process for the construction of the Fire Station. They won't know final numbers until the project goes out to bid. Finance Director Smith stated that they will use the estimated cost submitted by Port One in a bond approval process with the City Council.

Councilor Cameron said she wants to make sure that we will have a facility that will last 75 years. She understands that the final numbers won't come through until we go to bid.

City Manager Belmore said they can ask for some alternates, like the doors, to save cost in areas. There is a cost to building on site, in phases. But if we buy land, it will cost that much or more.

***Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to allow staff to pursue a Grant for the EOC. The motion passed, 4-0.***

Councilor Pepin said he is good on the design. Councilor Vincent said he is in favor of the fire station design, but would like to see if there are areas where we could cut expenses.

***Councilor Vincent, seconded by Councilor Cameron, made a motion to accept the Fire Station design submitted by Port One Architects. The Motion passed, 4-0.***

EMS Report – Paul Robidas of Stewarts Ambulance, reported that the current response time is 4.5 minutes. This is a bit longer of a response time than usual, because of snow and ice. The contract requires a response time of 8 minutes or less, 90% of the time. He stated that he is happy with the response times. They recently hired a Training Lieutenant. They will be performing monthly

refresher training for EMS staff. They purchased a webinar platform, so people can attend classes by webinar and take classes remotely.

They gave trainings for stop the bleed and CPR at the Somersworth Middle School. There are now tourniquets and AEDs in all Somersworth schools.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY, 04/17/2019 REPORT

Councilor Pepin gave brief overview of previous review of the fire station. The final recommendation was to add an assistant chief and a secretary. At this time, it is all budgetary.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Councilor Cameron, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed, 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:18pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Trish Harris, City Clerk