

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

The Public Safety Commission was called to order by Chair Harbeck at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Trustee Dean Proefrock, Trustee David Antoine, and Bob Wolf

Commissioner excused: Joe Eernisse

Staff present: Police Chief Charles Wenten, Fire Chief Bill Rice, and Administrative Assistant Clarissa Allen

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to approve the September 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

AMEND FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FIRE ENGINES PURCHASE AND REFURBISHMENTS

Chief Rice summarized the chronology of planning for amending the capital improvement program for three fire engines. The main goal is to make sure that all equipment works well together. During the July 14, 2015 Public Safety Commission meeting, it was agreed by the Commission to table this request until a new service agreement could be finalized between the Grafton Fire Department and the Town of Grafton. It is anticipated that this agreement will be finalized in the next few days. Chief Rice is proposing that Engine 864 and Engine 865 be refurbished in the year 2018, and Engine 863 be replaced in 2018. The proposed cost of replacing Engine 863 is \$600,000. The proposed cost of refurbishing Engine 864 and Engine 865 is \$175,000. It has been agreed upon with the Town of Grafton that these expenditures would be split 60/40, with the Village covering 60 percent, and the Town of Grafton covering 40 percent, for the purchase of a new engine, and the refurbishing of two engines.

Trustee Proefrock questioned if refurbishing the engines would extend their life expectancy. Chief Rice advised that in some ways it would; however, he is reluctant to say that this is a long term refurbishment.

Trustee Proefrock also questioned the lack of budgeted capital improvement monies for turn out gear, after 2016. Chief Rice explained that he will be analyzing the need for this gear each year during budget time. At this time, the department is well covered for this gear.

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Commissioner Wolf to recommend the Village Board approve an amendment to the Five Year Capital Improvement Program to reflect an Engine replacement in 2018 for \$600,000 and refurbishment of two Engines in 2018 for estimated \$175,000. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wenten advised that to date in 2015, violent crimes remain low. Directed Patrols have increased as well as Business Checks. This is partially due to information being received from citizens reporting suspicious behavior, as well as increased activity with attempted break-ins and theft complaints. Officers are routinely conducting business door checks and will concentrate more in certain areas when information is received indicating this need. Emergency Detentions remain steady; however, there has been an increase in assisting other agencies with prisoners and potential emergency commitment patients at Aurora Medical Center.

Chief Wenten advised that even with the current staffing shortages in the Department, activity continues to remain consistent and even increased in some areas.

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice advised that year to date there has been a total increase of 75 calls for service for the Fire Department over last year. Emergency Medical Services have increased by 75 calls. Motor Vehicle Accident responses have been steady. September 2015, was the slowest month for the Fire Department in the past two years. June 2015, was the busiest month for the Fire Department. Chief Rice advised that during the daytime hours the Fire Department and EMS has the most on-duty staff available for calls. Chief Rice also advised that, on average, 10-15 members are now responding for fire calls. Chief Rice would like to attain a good balance of volunteers responding to all calls.

Commissioner Wolf inquired about the process of having a Paramedic available for all calls. Chief Rice advised that the process for approving Paramedics is very involved, but the Fire Department is slowly building the number of Paramedics on the Department.

Chief Rice advised that the Fire Inspector has been very involved with enforcing the fire code on some of the new buildings being built. Builders are becoming more creative in the buildings, necessitating the Fire Inspector to work very closely with them to ensure a cooperative effort in reaching the fire code completion. Trustee Proefrock inquired if all fire inspections would be completed in 2015. Chief Rice feels confident they will all be completed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

September and October Police Department Overtime

Chief Wenten advised that the Police Department is at an all-time low for staffing shortage. There are currently five shift shortages, which equate to an entire shift. Two Officers resigned, and three Officers are on FMLA. This has caused a large increase in overtime for staffing and sick coverage. Administration is adjusting the schedule and moving Officers around to cover shifts as much as possible. Chief Wenten and the two Captains are also scheduling themselves to cover some of the shift vacancies. Chief Wenten wanted to make Commission members aware that the Officers are shouldering a significant burden with the extensive overtime assignments and shift reassignments. There was discussion about the significant impact that this level of shift reassignment and mandated overtime has on employees and their families.

Trustee Proefrock inquired about the reduced number of days the School Liaison Officer has been able to spend in the school. Chief Wenten stated that Sergeant Podewils was only in the school four of the 21 days he was scheduled to be in October; however, he is still

conducting his school duties as much as possible. Chief Wenten reiterated that all employees are doing what is necessary to ensure that business is taken care of.

Chief Rice wanted to update the Commission on the 2015 purchase of a new Brush truck. Chief Rice stated that the chassis is ordered. The Fire Department only received one vendor bid, which was approximately \$25,000 over budget. Chief Rice is looking at all the different options for outfitting the chassis and trying to remain in budget. He will provide another update at the next Public Safety Commission meeting.

Chief Wenten advised the Commission that two new Police Officers have been hired. They will both begin their employment with the Grafton Police Department on November 16, 2015. They will be sworn in at 10:30 a.m. at the Police Department. All members of the Commission are invited to attend. These Officers will undergo a four month field training process which should be completed in March, 2016.

Chief Wenten also informed the Commission that Sergeant Doug Wilde has announced his retirement, with his last day of employment being December 5, 2015. He informed the Commission that a third candidate is available and will be hired to fill this vacancy.

Chief Wenten also advised that the Police Department will be purchasing new in-squad and body worn camera systems before the end of 2015. This was one of the 2015 Capital Improvement purchases for the Police Department. The switch over will be for all seven squad cars, and will include seven body worn cameras. Chief Wenten gave a brief explanation about the benefits of having these recording devices and how they are used. Trustee Harbeck inquired about how the license plate reader is working. Chief Wenten advised it has produced a number of "hits" by reading vehicles license plates, and is working out nicely.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Proefrock seconded by Trustee Antoine adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

Motion carried.