

Committee on Public Safety

Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair

Councilor Jesse M. Adams

Councilor William H. Dwight

Councilor David A. Murphy

Committee on Public Safety **Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building** **212 Main Street, Northampton, MA**

Meeting Minutes

11/2/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting
2. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
Councilor Carney called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Councilor Carney announced that the meeting would be video taped.
3. Members Present/Absent
Present were Councilors Carney and Murphy. Councilors Adams and Spector were absent.
4. Public Comment
None
5. Approval Of Meeting Minutes
 - 5.I. Minutes Of July 6, 2015, August 3, 2015, And October 5, 2015
The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.
6. Departmental Presentations
 - 6.I. Department Update By Northampton Fire Rescue

Chief Nichols gave an overall summary regarding the status of the department:

The Chief reported that promotional tests were done in July; recent promotions happened as a result of those exams. Regarding the department's budget, two employees are currently out on long term leave; the department currently has 2 vacancies; two retirements are anticipated in January. The Capital Plan was submitted--included in the capital plan are SCBreathing Apparatus (SCBA) upgrades and command vehicle & ambulance replacements. The Chief also reported that the department will be conducting public education as a result of a grant.

Northampton S.A.F.E. is a dedicated group of 18 Educators trained to meet the standards and objectives put forth by the Dept. of Fire Services. The program has the potential to reach over 2,700 school students and 3,800 seniors.

Firefighter Stollmeyer gave an overview of what the public education will be. The department receives a grant each year (about \$7,000 this year) to fund education programs aimed at training the public on fire prevention. The initiative will include a student training component for students in grades k-12. This training is aimed at teaching youngsters the dangers of fire and the hazards of smoking. There is also a senior citizen training component aimed at the teaching fire dangers, hazards of smoking, and fall prevention. The grant funded program began two years ago and was originally funded through the cigarette tax. The training programs are lead by Firefighter Stollmeyer and Captain Dave Murrett and is overseen by Deputy Chief Vanasse.

Chief Nichols reports that the department is also focusing on employee health and wellness. Steps have been taken to train staff on the importance of staying physically fit, including conducting in-house seminars on various health related topics. Fitness professionals have been brought in to help in the training.

Assistant Chief Davin gave an update regarding operational issues:

The department's current rescue truck is in the process of being replaced; a new truck is being built by Pierce Fire Apparatus and should be delivered in the next couple of weeks; the old one will be sold. The new unit can tow the department's boat and hazmat trailer; it is equipped with a backup camera, hitch, and will have the ability to increase illumination capacity.

Asst. Chief Davine also reports that professional development is on-going in the department. All Deputy Chiefs are trained highest level for their position.

The department's Station Alerting System is in the process of being upgraded-the current one is original to the building and it is aging and less dependent. Currently the system uses a Verizon phone line.

The new system will be built by Purvis as a state-of-the-art system. It will run by the city's fiber network and will be more energy efficient. Northampton will be one of the first departments using an automated dispatch system (other than Boston and Foxboro). The backup for the city's fiber loop will be copper lines. The dispatch center can override the system to allow use of the department radios if necessary. A huge concern with the current system is that the software for current system is no longer supported and the department can no longer get parts.

Deputy Chief Garriepy gave an update about department statistics:

The department recently switched billing agencies. The transition has resulted in a dip in the number of bills processed. The dept. will be back on track; no loss in revenue is expected.

The department recently underwent an ambulance inspection by the State. DC Garriepy is pleased to report that the ambulances passed the inspection due in large part to the efforts of the entire crew.

Dashboard - monthly trending statistics were reviewed. DC Garriepy talked about the major indicators. The data shows that the department experiences just about an equal amount of calls requiring Advanced Life Support (ALS-51%) as they do Basic Life Support (BLS-49%).

7. New Business
None

8. Adjourn

At 6:00 pm Councilor Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. the motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 yes, 0 no, 2 absent (Councilors Adams and Dwight).

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