

EMERGENCY SERVICES

September 1, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alderman Burtle
Alderman Jones
Alderman Heberling
Alderman Olive

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton
Police Chief Herpstreith
Fire Chief Crews
Shirley Sams

Alderman Walters
Alderman Budd
Alderman Vota

Chairman Burtle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

AMMUNITION PURCHASE

Chief Herpstreith presented the Committee with quotes from Kiesler's Police Supply, Inc. and Howell Munitions and Tech. INC to order their yearly ammunition in bulk; the total of the combined orders total \$24,376.54. He would like permission to order as soon as possible advising the elections may affect the availability.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Olive to recommend to the City Council to allow Chief Herpstreith to place the Police Department's yearly order of ammunition at a cost not to exceed \$24,376.54. Motion carried 4-0.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Chief Herpstreith advised Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S) is holding their annual National Conference this November in Dallas Texas. The topics at this conference are not typical to the academies or the Illinois Training and Standards Board; they are addressing Officer Wellness and trauma. There is an increasing number of Officers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Chief Herpstreith advised with the recent targeting of Officer Shootings which have already occurred in Springfield and Decatur he recommends sending up to three from the Department; there would be no overtime associated with this training.

The Committee asked how they would be able to avoid paying overtime with the shortage in the Department; due to the time of year there isn't anyone taking vacation. After discussion the Committee agreed to send two instead due to the shortage. The cost of the conference, the hotel and round trip airfare (airfare is always fluctuating) shouldn't exceed \$1,100.00 per Officer. The registration fee includes three meals (two lunches and one dinner); the Committee recommended adding extra for meals.

Chief Herpstreith advised there is money in the budget under training as he had been given approval to send two Officers to firearms training in Rockford, but due to circumstances in the Department it did not happen. Mayor Brotherton stated the State of Illinois should be contacted as they should be offering these types of classes rather than the Departments sending Officers out of state. He stated this conference is set up similar to the IML Conference in which there are different classes offered. Chief Herpstreith has selected classes he wants them to attend.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Olive to recommend to the City Council to allow two Officers to attend the C.O.P.S. National Conference at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.00 each; this cost covers registration, hotel and airfare, registration fee includes three meals (two lunches and one dinner). Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls-1,579
- Total Cases-104
- Total Arrests-63
- Traffic Citations-48
- He went to Champaign to visit with Police Officer Ponzel who is in training at the Academy, all is going well.

The numbers of traffic stops have gone down as the Department has been busy with the recent burglary at the Moose Lodge, numerous drug and theft cases. They also assisted the Pana Police Department and the Christian County Sheriff's Office with the apprehension of two suspects wanted on the Pana Walmart case; he received a nice letter from Police Chief Bland thanking the Department for their assistance. The annual Governor's Run Detail came through Taylorville last weekend which had a large number of motorcyclists that raise money for Veterans.

NEW HIRE COSTS-POLICE

At last month's meeting Chairman Burtle asked the costs associated with the hiring of the new Police Officers and Firefighters as several have been hired and training paid for by the City then they accept offers in other cities. He discussed the requirements which are included in the ad for employment such as with the Fire Department it states a candidate has to have Paramedic Training; he thinks the City should be able to recoup some of the fees for training etc. He advised the Committee he has contacted the City Attorney to research this. Alderman Jones stated there is language in the policies already; Human Resource Manager Brown stated there is some language in the Fire Contract Agreement for reimbursement of probationary fire academy training expense, she would have to pull the policies and contracts to know what is in each, she was asked to get a copy for Chairman Burtle. He said timing is important as the Police Officers are in negotiations now and the Firefighters will be in January; he recommends including a specific time frame they agree to commit to Taylorville such as three to five years as several Police Officers and Firefighters have tested for other areas and names are on numerous lists. He advised he understands why some of these employees are leaving as they are being offered more money.

Chief Herpstreith presented the Committee with a printout outlining the costs of a new hire for his Department. He explained the Department has no fees for training as most of the costs are paid by the ILETSB (Illinois Enforcement Training and Standard Board). The only training cost the City has to pay is for additional classes in Police Spanish (\$150.00), Taser Certification (\$175.00), and Juvenile Specialist (\$120.00). The total including all gear and the additional classes is approximately \$3,690.35.

NEW HIRE COSTS-FIRE

Fire Chief Crews discussed the costs associated for the new Firefighters. He stated the City hasn't been able to recoup any of the fees for training for different reasons, one Firefighter was here for a period of time and didn't go to Academy and one paid for his own training. Police Chief Herpstreith advised Officers aren't allowed to pay their own way as they did in the past, they have to be hired by an entity then sent to Academy. Chief Crews reported they have had six firefighters accept positions in other areas and there is a possibility of losing two more.

He discussed a report he has drafted for the Committee to consider which outlines some of these recommendations on changes that need to be made such as rather than "if in paramedic training" make it must have paramedic training prior to employment. He advised things need to change as the talent the Department is losing is significant; he and other members of the Committee agreed the Millennials have a different way of thinking; the loyalty isn't as it has been in the past. Chairman Burtle asked that he make copies of the report for the Committee to review.

Chief Crews stated he wanted input from the Police Department as well before he presents it. He will complete and present a copy to everyone at the October Emergency Services Committee Meeting and give a presentation in November.

After a lengthy discussion with both Police Chief Herpstreith and Fire Chief Crews, Chairman Burtle emphasized the importance of getting some language incorporated upfront to be included in the ad for employment upon the City Attorney's recommendations for retention and recouping of expenses. Chairman Burtle asked Alderman Heberling to forward these discussions to the Personnel Committee due to the timing of the negotiations.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls-137
- Training-195 hours in Building Construction, Ladders, Terrorism Special Operations and Drafting and Pumping
- Assisted with mutual aid in Kincaid
- Assisted with a mutual aid call in Assumption for a diesel fuel spill which will be billed
- Received an AFG Grant in the amount of \$3,637.00 to assist in training expenses.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Alderman Walters advised he wasn't aware of the transporting of firearms in the police vehicles have changed, he would like this to be addressed. Chairman Burtle advised he would put firearms on next month's agenda.

The Mayor and Committee members thanked Police Chief Herpstreith for a job well done as the Police Chief and wished him well in his new position in the Department.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Heberling to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Shawn Burtle, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee