

EMERGENCY SERVICES

July 2, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Burtle
Alderman Koonce
Alderman Heberling
Alderman Jones

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton
Police Chief Herpstreith
Captain Andy Goodall
Alderman Walters
Alderman Budd
Shirley Sams

Chairman Burtle called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

K-9 CERTIFICATION FOR NEW K-9 HANDLER

Police Chief Herpstreith advised the Committee that with the upcoming promotions within the Department there will now be an opening for a K-9 Handler. The cost of training is \$1,090.70, 50% is reimbursable from the Illinois Training and Standards Board.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Heberling to recommend to the City Council to allow Police Chief Herpstreith to send a Police Officer to K-9 Handler Training Class which starts August 26th through the Illinois State Police at a cost not to exceed \$1,090.70. Motion carried 4-0.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total Calls for Service-1,863
- Researching Equipment Grants
- Preparing for the 4th of July activities at the Lake, there will be extra patrolling at the Lake and lake lots
- Working with other agencies on investigations
- Continuing education training for personnel
- Radio communication issues resolved
- Working a lot of Arrest Warrants

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Police Chief Herpstreith advised the Committee of the amount of time the Officers are tied up that is associated with juvenile calls which could take up to an hour and child exchanges. The courts are setting up child exchanges to take place at the Police Department in the lobby.

Alderman Koonce asked about the Explorers; they received their shirts but there was a mix up with the order. If they receive the right ones before next month's meeting they will be invited to the August meeting.

There was discussion regarding grass clippings in the street. Chief Herpstreith was advised to run an ad in the paper and on the radio. The Committee agreed the property owners should get a 30 minute warning after they finish mowing to get the clippings cleaned up before a ticket is issued; but repeat offenders won't get a warning. Alderman Budd requested that the warnings not be issued until after the ad is run in the paper.

FIREWORKS PERMIT SUBMITTAL & INSPECTION

Fire Captain Goodall inspected the fireworks area stating the crowd has to stand at least 420 feet from where the fireworks are being shot. Lake Superintendent Jackson will barricade the area.

WALGREENS FALSE ALARM

Captain Goodall informed the Committee the False Alarm Ordinance is defined as an activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, and improper installation or through negligence of the owner, or lessee of an alarm system or of his employees or agents or other cause. False Alarm does not include an alarm signal caused by weather conditions or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business operator or alarm user. The Ordinance also has that Commercial/Business Alarms and Residential Alarms shall both be allowed two false alarms in a quarter at no charge.

He reported that Walgreens has had 3 (three) alarms during this quarter, but the first alarm was due to an elderly person who had pulled on the alarm. There was a small glass bar that was broken and had not been installed which was bumped causing the second and third false alarms. He didn't feel Walgreens should be fined due to the circumstances.

The Committee also discussed the False Alarm Ordinance stating the time frame should be ninety days starting from the date of the first offense not by a quarterly basis. There was a question regarding whether this should be forwarded to the Ordinance Committee; after discussion the Committee agreed that was not necessary.

Motion by Alderman Heberling and seconded by Alderman Koonce to recommend to the City Council to direct City Attorney Romano to prepare an Ordinance to amend the wording of Ordinance No. 3386 (False Alarm Ordinance) to change the timeframe from quarterly to begin 90 days from first offense. Motion carried 4-0.

SAFER GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

In order to maintain the requirements of the SAFER Grant the Fire Department needs to hire a new Firefighter due to a retirement to bring the Department up to staff. Captain Goodall explained with the hiring of a new firefighter the staff of 15 firefighters of which two are being paid for by the grant would reduce the overtime. There would be one less firefighter on schedule A and three firefighters on schedule B with a cost savings of \$37,182.00 over a three year period.

If there is a promotion from within and a firefighter is not hired there will be an increase in overtime and the Department would lose the savings of \$37,182.00 from having two firefighters on schedule B instead of three. The City would also be identified as a poor performer by not meeting the requirements of the grant which could prevent the City from being awarded any grants in the future. This would also result in a reduction of \$7,500.00 in firefighter pension levy and the pension savings would have been \$7,500.00 (\$2,500.00 each) due to three remaining on schedule B.

Captain Goodall explained the Department plans to submit for a grant in 2016 to replace the SCBA's which will cost approximately \$135,000.00. To date the Department has received \$980,000.00 in AFG grant funds.

TORNADO SIREN CLASS AND UPDATE

The warning system was installed in October 2006; there were numerous calls for repairs and required maintenance conducted by Griffin Tower Connection. Captain Goodall has been doing the repairs for approximately four years. He presented the Committee with a breakdown of hours he has worked on the sirens since January which was 10 times for a total of 28 hours comp time for him and six hours comp time for Ron Smith who helped.

Griffin Tower charges \$180.00 a trip for travel time from Decatur and \$120.00 an hour for the technician which totals a savings of \$4,560.00 so far this year. The Committee thanked Captain Goodall for taking over the repairs and asked if he had any problems working on the sirens; he stated there were a couple of locations that are hard to get to. Boyd Dappert has rocks that make it hard to keep the ladder balanced and the Golf Course has tall weeds. There was discussion regarding whether or not the sirens are on easements, if so Alderman Walters advised he and Street & Sewer Supt. Wiseman would get the areas cleaned up. Alderman Walters advised that the siren at Bishops Cove was not working; Captain Goodall is aware of it and the materials have been ordered.

There is a Tornado Siren Class being taught by American Signal, the manufacturer of the sirens the City owns and is held on an as needed basis the first week of the month. Captain Goodall would like to attend a class in August if available; if not he would attend in September. The tuition is \$2,500.00 per class with the maximum number of students being 5. If other students sign up for the class the cost is divided proportionally. For example, if three from the TFD attend and one other student, the cost would be \$625 per person with mileage, meals and hotel for two nights for three firefighters the total would be approximately \$3,000.00. Captain Goodall stated the money would come from the ESDA Line Item. He was asked if the sirens are still under any type of warranty; they are not. He recommends sending three to the class stating at least one of the younger firefighters should be trained as a backup for the future or if for some reason he was not available.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Koonce to recommend to the City Council to allow Captain Goodall and personnel to attend the Tornado Siren Class in Milwaukee, WI at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, with the funds to come out of the ESDA Line Item. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- There have been no injuries year to date
- The Department is averaging 113 calls a month
- Shift Overtime is up a little due to training
- The ambulance had two transports on May 15th and May 18th, the private ambulances were busy and we have not received payments yet
- Had drills at West School
- Firefighter Phillips and Acting Fire Chief Crews attended Smoke Diver Training at IFSI
- Review of Boat SOG
- Trained for airbag safety
- Dive Training at the YMCA
- Regional Training was conducted by the department for each County Fire Department

Captain Goodall reported on Public Education Activities:

- Monthly CPR – Taught 4 people
- Birthday Tours of Fire House- 15 kids
- Annual Inspection of all Mental Health Homes-3 Homes

- Career Day- 25 kids
- First Annual Blood Drive at the Fire Station-28 units of blood, there will be another drive in late fall
- Company Inspections are moving forward. Twelve inspections completed, one of the inspections were all eight of the Park District Buildings

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Captain Goodall was asked if there were any other retirements coming up soon. He advised there shouldn't be for another four years, that he, Bob Dunn and Acting Fire Chief Crews all started about the same time, with the first one being eligible for retirement four years from November.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Heberling to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Shawn Burtle, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee