

DATE _____ AGENDA: 1 1708 1 180
Chairman [Signature] V. Chair _____ CH [Signature]
COMMITTEE

Townsend Police Department

Chiefs Report

March 1 – March 31, 2018

Activity Summary

Staffing

One officer is still on medical leave.

This month we held the testing for the open positions (there are two open positions as the person that was going through the process from our previous search opted to accept a different job offer and the second is from the most recent resignation). The initial field of 70 applicants was narrowed to 37 with 16 participating in oral boards. The next phase is video assessments of 8 candidates. The top candidates will have executive interviews with the chief after which final candidate will be given a conditional offer pending a background investigation.

School Resource Officer

Staffing an officer at the school has been a topic of discussion during the last month. Unfortunately, there have been comments that the police department and me personally have been breaking state law by not having an officer at the high school. First, there is not a state law or a requirement from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that mandates having an SRO. The statute from the Acts of 2014 was only to become active if funding was established at the state level. It clearly states "if appropriated", which never occurred at the state level. That said, I have held numerous meetings with school personnel and frequently go to the schools and have had officers present as needed. In addition, I and officers on duty had attended evening events at the school. With four schools in town it is important to have visibility in and around all schools.

Administration

The department submitted both its capital and operating budget and participated in meetings to discuss the budgets as requested by the Board of Selectman and Fin-Com.

The towing bid process has been completed. Two vendors – Eastbound Towing and Harbor Auto Body received favorable review.

The final steps to adjust the pay of some officers were completed. The pay should have been adjusted well over a year ago. This resulted in a significant sum of money being billed to the current budget.

I have continued to work with the Animal Control Officer on billing and report submission.

I spent a significant amount of time with federal officials to resolve issues related to forfeiture funds due to the department. This funding dates back several years, however, it was never accessed and budget never set up for its use.

I attended several meetings with the schools regarding safety, incidents, and planning. Routine stops occur by both patrol and administration of the police department. In anticipation of the school walkout, with the superintendent and principal, a safety plan was organized. Both Pepperell and Ashby assisted with providing officers.

I assisted the TAYBS with removal of an old shed at Craven Field and have been working with the team organizers on issues related to trash and encroachment by neighbors. As appropriate referrals have been made to the Building Inspector, Board of Health, and Board of Selectmen.

I attended Complete Street meetings to assist the town with its strategy.

On several occasions I conducted wellness check and dropped in on community members in need.

The front desk is now covered on a part-time basis with an dedicated employee and the rest of the time the desk is covered by the administrative assistant.

Technology

While the department is trying to use technology more efficiently there are several challenges. Email and phone are frequently going down (these are internal systems unrelated to the NVRDD). Several meetings have been held to work with IT to address these issues.

The department is undergoing training for the IMC/Tri Tech software installation. The system will go live in June 2018. To help facilitate the final change over, data from the old system (PAMET) is being recoded for uploading into the new system. Unfortunately, the conversion will not be as "clean" as we had hoped. There are differences in each of the systems and how data is stored. The results of the conversion will not be known for several months.

Operational Changes

Several items are being addressed such as the proper logging in of calls and activity, proper submission of traffic crash reports, and obtaining the chief's signature on ticket books.

Grants

The bullet proof vest grant is going to be opening again and the department will apply.

The continuation of the highway safety grant enforcement has been on hold with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security due to the incremental release of funding from the federal government. Hopefully the balance of the enforcement and equipment grant will occur soon.

Community Events Attended

I attended the following community events:

- TAYBS dinner
- Baptist church dinner
- VFW 72nd Anniversary Dinner and Awards
- VFW monthly breakfast
- Town Picnic Variety Show
- Conducted Child Passenger Safety Training to maintain certification.

Upcoming events include a presentation sponsored by NM Cares on April 13, 2018 at 6:30PM at Townsend Ridge County Club speakers will be discussing drug related issues and pathways to recovery.