

**TOWN OF WINDSOR  
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2019  
TOWN HALL – LUDLOW ROOM**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Nuchette Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Councilors James Govoni and Joe McAuliffe present. Town Manager Peter Souza and Police Chief Don Melanson were also present.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. DISCUSSION OF FY 18 QUARTERLY TRAFFIC STOP DATA**

Donald Melanson, Chief of Police, provided an overview of the FY 19 enforcement efforts as well as trends from FY 17 through December 2018. Chief Melanson briefly explained the various data points that officers are required to collect with each traffic stop.

Chief Melanson noted the number of stops in the first half of FY 19 were 4,515. Windsor residents accounted for 32.6% of the stops. Approximately 80% of the stops were for violations such as red light, speeding, cell phone, and seat belt. The remaining stops were for equipment type violations such as failure to display registration plates or defective lights. These percentages are similar to those for the full 2018 fiscal year.

Through the first half of FY 2019, 38% of the stops involved white drivers, 12% Hispanic drivers, and 46% black drivers.

Councilor McAuliffe asked how the traffic stop data is collected. Chief Melanson stated the information is entered into the town's Computer Aided Dispatch / Records Management System by the officers in the field.

Councilor Black-Burke asked about where the majority of stops are being made. Chief Melanson explained that a large percentage of stops are made on state roads such as Routes 159, 305, and 75. These are the heavily traveled roads in town and tend to have the greater number of motor vehicle accidents.

Councilor Black-Burke encouraged staff to work on disseminating the traffic enforcement data to the community to facilitate a dialogue and a better understanding of the data and the police department's efforts.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND EMBEDDED CLINICIAN MODEL**

Town Manager Souza stated that for many years the police department has worked to enhance police response to persons experiencing mental health emergencies. Starting in 2005, officers were trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, and in 2008, a collaborative approach with the local behavioral health agency, Community Health Resources (CHR) was developed.

In late 2015, the department received a grant through the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. Funds were used to provide additional training for officers and an embedded mental health clinician. The goal of the mental health clinician has been to assist in follow up to crises calls, focusing on diversion from the criminal justice system as well as linkage to needed services.

Chief Melanson stated that in FY 18 the department responded to 332 calls with persons experiencing mental health emergencies or calls categorized as involving an emotionally disturbed or suicidal person. During the first half of this fiscal year, there have been 189 calls. Of the 332 mental health reports submitted by officers in 2018, 163 required officers to utilize Police Emergency Examination Requests (PEER). Officers use the PEER process and transport individuals to a local hospital when a person in crisis presents themselves as a danger to themselves or others and are in need of immediate care and treatment.

The clinician receives case reports from officers who respond to mental health crisis calls for review and follow up. The clinician also provides follow-up visits with high-risk individuals and those who have had repeated police contacts. These follow-up visits provide an avenue of support for these individuals. In turn, this continued contact and follow up can help reduce the frequency these individuals experience a crisis, reducing demands on police services. Often the follow-up visits have been with a police officer (overtime was grant funded) allowing officers to build a rapport with the resident and gain additional insights from working with the clinician.

Councilor Black-Burke asked how the clinician has interfaced with other town agencies. Staff noted the clinician has partnered with the Social Services department on a number of cases. In the first six months of Fiscal Year 2019, the clinician received 9 referrals from Social Services and referred 8 clients to social services for assistance.

Chief Melanson stated input from police officers and supervisors indicate the implementation of mental health clinician with the police department has been a valuable resource. Similar feedback has been received from our Social Services staff.

Councilor Govoni stated as the community's needs have changed over time, this service has become increasingly needed. He felt it was appropriate to try to continue the service now the grant has expired.

Councilors McAuliffe and Black-Burke also expressed support of this service.

Town Manager Souza stated that grant funds have been fully expended and available police department funding is being utilized to continue the program on a month-to-month basis through an agreement with Community Health Resources. There are available resources in the FY 2019 police department budget due to salary savings to continue the program through June 2019.

As part of preparing the proposed budget for FY 2020, the Town Manager has requested the Police Department and Social Services to evaluate how this service could be provided on an on-going basis. Either through a part-time town position or contractually with Community Health Resources. Preliminary cost estimate is between \$41,000 and \$45,000.

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

Town Manager Souza stated the public safety radio project contract with Motorola was under final legal review. The next step is for FCC licensing to begin. The contract for the school district system has been executed.

Design of the new police facility at 100 Addison Road is underway. Designers have met with a cross section of the police department to get input on layout and functional requirements. Architects will present updated plans to the Public Building Commission in February. It is planned to bid this phase of the project in summer 2019. Councilor Govoni asked if the police impound lot was going to be located to the rear of 100 Addison Road. Staff stated it would. Councilor Govoni noted the area to the rear of the building seemed rather constrained size-wise.

Town Manager Souza reported he was hoping to introduce the funding request for replacement of a 25 year old fire engine on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Requested funding will be a combination of bonding and pay-as-you-go cash which is included in the FY 2019 adopted budget.

Councilor Black-Burke asked staff if they could get information on the utilization by Windsor residents of the community health clinic located on Windsor Avenue at Route 218.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) June 25, 2018

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Govoni to approve the unapproved minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

**7. ADJOURMENT**

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Govoni to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Souza  
Town Manager