

Public Safety Meeting minutes
March 26, 2013

Call to order 9:59 A.M. By Chairwoman Szukala

Members In attendance: Stacy Szukala, Bill Rivera

Also in attendance: Stephanie Kiyak, Chief Ortolano, Chief Ahlstrom, Reporters from the Observer and Buffalo News.

Chief Ahlstrom gave a brief review of the work needed at all three fire halls. A printed hand out was given to all in attendance. (see attached).

Chief explained that an RFP process will be followed for any work in the future. He stated that Fire HQ has room for expansion if we choose to take that route.

Next, Chief Ahlstrom handed out a list of volunteers and their years of service. (see attached). Most departments and combination of paid /volunteer. As the years go on, volunteers are hard to obtain or keep due to many reasons. In 1990 there were 140,000 volunteers vs. 96,000 in 2006. this number is state wide.

Szukala gave her support in the effort to close station #3. It has many issues, and by closing this station, it allows the personnel to be moved to HQ, This would help with the rotation and may lower the OT slightly.

Ahlstrom replied that the best case for the city would be a New Public Safety Building shared by Police and Fire.

Szukala asked about combining units with the Town of dunkirk or possibly Fredonia. Chief replied that the town is all volunteer and it would only work if multiple municipalities shared a public safety building.

Ahlstrom stated he met with Mayor Dolce on building repairs. There will be a structural engineer brought in to assess the work needed and he will give the city an opinion on how to move forward.

Kiyak asked Chief Ahlstrom of the status of ALS certified route being discussed. Ahlstrom stated pro/cons are being looked at and an update will be given at next meeting. The upcoming conference will provide more details as well.

Chief Ortolano gave update on shared police service with the town. They meet once per month to discuss issues and possibilities. When the contract comes up for renewal, they

will sit down again.

The gun turn in program was discussed next. Ortolano stated it may be a bigger success if the County does something countywide. Ortolano spoke with Chief Meyers from Fredonia and he agreed. 60% of the guns turned in are not usable. Ortolano stated he felt by involving more areas, the county would benefit. We would be willing to use a city officer for a drop off point. In the mean time if anyone has a gun they wish to dispose of properly, they can call the dept. The gun will be picked up, a check will be done. Then a receipt will be given to the resident.

Szukala then requested that Chief Ahlstrom take this idea back to the County Legislative Public safety committee. He will get back to the committee when he has anything further.

Kiyak asked both chiefs if we had an evacuation plan for large events, stating she discussed this at the Ithaca farmers market she visited. Both chiefs replied that they meet prior to events so that everyone has a common goal should an evacuation be needed.

Ortolano informed the committee that since school is not in session this week, drills would be taking place in all of the schools.

Meeting adjourned 10:40 A.M.

(no minutes were approved, as there was not a quorum)*****