

**Public Health & Safety Committee Report  
for Meeting of July 3, 2013**

Present were Fire Chief Terry Vrshek, Deputy Chief Michael Cornell, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johansen, and myself. Also present were Deputy Fire Chief Luety, Lieutenant Klinker Alderman Stone, guest speaker Sergeant Dave Wolf of Alsip Police Department, and private citizen Alan Stevo. Absent were Alderman Buckner and Alderman Johnson.

**Citizens Concerns**

Alan Stevo asked about progress on two cases from August 2011, a robbery at 12753 Irving, and vandalism and burglary at 12853 Gregory St.

**Fire Department Report**

Chief Vrshek received official notification from FEMA that the amendment for the compressor system and the twelve extra face pieces has been awarded. The grant award is as follows:

Grant Award:	\$144,141.00
Federal Funds:	\$129,726.00
Blue Island's Share:	\$ 14,415.00

It was requested that the federal funds be transferred to the Blue Island account, this may take several weeks. The Blue Island share will also need to be added to this account.

Twenty-two complete air packs:	\$92,510.00
Twelve extra face pieces:	4,800.00
One Rapid Intervention Pack:	3,250.00
Breathing Air Compressor System:	33,841.00
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Total:	\$134,401.00

The understanding is that we will be able to use the available funds to purchase additional air cylinders. If this is true, the cost of the thirty-eight spare cylinders can be reduced from \$26,334.00 to \$16,594.00.

The Fire Department had 285 emergency calls in June, 193 were EMS calls  
168 Patients were treated  
151 Patients were transported  
41 Patients refused transport

The fire department responded to 18 fire alarms which were assisted by other towns.

They responded 34 times to assist other towns.

They had 25 calls to man the firehouses.

There was one successful nighttime boat rescue from the Cal Sag Channel.

Marine One is docked at Fay's Point and is out of service due to damage to the propeller.

The crews participated in two more EMS calls that resulted in successful resuscitations.

The aerial tower is back in service after being out for three weeks for maintenance.

Engine 2103 is scheduled to go out for maintenance work in two weeks. When engine 2103 is back in service, the remaining engines will be sent out for maintenance. The annual pump tests will be performed after all of the apparatus are back in service.

The hose tower compartment at firehouse one has been removed and the walls are being power washed in preparation for the new compressor system and better storage.

The Fire Department has not received bids on repair to the ceiling of the bay at firehouse one or for the water tower storeroom.

Great Lakes Bank has offered to collect donations for the FEMA Radio Grant. Checks should be made out to "Blue Island Firefighter's Radio Grant Fund" and write in the memo section: "Fire Department Radio Grant." The bank is located at 13057 Western Avenue.

Officers and Firefighters received Ethics and Diversity training in conjunction with the Police Department.

For the month of May most Firefighters received approximately 20 hours of training.

April Dueshop will be allowed her pension July 9<sup>th</sup>. She will be replaced by Harry O'Hagan, who is already a part-time Firefighter. (Motion by Alderman Johansen, second by Alderman Vieyra.) The Committee approved the hiring of Harry O'Hagan.

Chief Vrshek requested that we keep the cost of a new ambulance in the Fire Department appropriations. It would cost approximately \$175,000.00 but could be financed over three years.

A discussion took place regarding increasing Fire Department fees. A motion was made by Alderman Vieyra, seconded by Alderman Johansen to send a schedule of increased fees to the Judiciary Committee for review and amendment to the existing Ordinance. Motion carried.

### **Police Department Report**

Sergeant Dave Wolfe of the Alsip Police Department gave a presentation on the 12 Hour Shift. The Committee recommended that Deputy Chief Cornell discuss the 12 Hour Shift with the Mayor and the City Attorney.

Detective Report for May, 70 cases assigned, 88 cases cleared, 11 arrests made.

There were 24 Incidents on the June Incident Listing.

The Police Department patrolled 16,813 miles for the month of June. 2660 calls answered.

386 Moving Violations  
503 Parking Violations  
287 Traffic Stops  
24 Felonies

69 Misdemeanors  
15 Warrant Arrests  
35 Local Ordinance Violations

Total Fees Collected: \$15,314.32

The Police Department has advertised for a front desk clerk. They are currently seeking one person.

Deputy Chief Cornell would like to advertise and hire 3 experienced part time dispatchers as soon as possible to have them trained by the time two full time dispatchers go on maternity leave in October.

The Police Department is currently short 5 full time officers. The background investigations are done on three candidates, all three are white, two male, one female. The earliest Police Academy openings would be in October. The officers would graduate in December and would not be able to work until finished with the Field Training Program in March.

The Committee separately approved the hiring of a front desk clerk, the three dispatchers, and the enrollment of the three full time candidates.

The Ethics/Diversity training for July 17<sup>th</sup> has been changed to 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Deputy Chief Cornell would like to raise the fine for violation of the Handicapped Ticket Ordinance to \$350.00. The information will be sent to the Judiciary Committee for amendment to the current Ordinance.

There will be an Open House/National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of Blue Island Police Department.

Speed trailers are available for any Ward that feels they are needed.

Alan Stevo asked about Police Department plans for Concealed Carry.

Alderman Vieyra asked that Deputy Chief Cornell talk to the building department about the plantings on the southwest side of Prairie and Gregory.

The question came up about whether residents should call 911 or the non-emergency police number if they need the police. Deputy Chief Cornell said that if people want the police to show up, they should call 911.

Lastly, Dr. Beckmann is leaving MetroSouth Medical Center.

Fire Chief Vrshek asked that we contact the Municipal Services about striping and signs for Vermont Street in front of the Fire House to keep people from blocking the road when traffic backs up due to trains.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candace Carr  
4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman.

