

## **Public Health & Safety Committee Report for Meeting of August 7, 2013**

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Terry Vrshek, Deputy Chief Michael Cornell, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johansen, Alderman Johnson, and myself. Also present were Deputy Fire Chief Luety, Lieutenant Klinker, Alderman Stone, Alderman Hawley. Absent was Alderman Buckner.

### **Citizens Concerns**

There were no citizens present.

### **Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 294 emergency calls in July, 208 were EMS calls  
189 Patients were treated  
172 Patients were transported  
36 Patients refused transport

The fire department responded to 19 fire alarms which were assisted by other towns.

They responded 31 times to assist other towns.

They had 32 calls to man the firehouses.

Other responses:

- 3 calls for downed power lines
- 1 call for a power line on fire
- 1 trouble alarm
- 2 calls for carbon monoxide alarms
- 1 elevator rescue
- 1 outside natural gas leak
- 1 call to check the odor of chemical fumes
- 1 car fire
- 1 call for a child whose foot was stuck in a bike wheel
- 1 call to rescue a cat in the sewer (rescued by a police officer)
- 1 call to assist the Police Department with a ladder

Marine One is back in service and docked at Fay's Point, the propeller was replaced. There is a crack in the fiberglass frame for the emergency lights bar. An estimate will be made on the repair cost.

The aerial tower is back in service after being out for three weeks for maintenance. It will be going back for service on the hydraulics systems.

The Robbins Fire Department has requested our assistance for automatic aid. We will respond for fires but not to fire alarm calls.

Engine 2103 is back in service, and the front line engine from fire house one will be sent out for maintenance. The annual pump tests were performed on truck 2104 and engine 2103.

Truck 2104 was sent out for a problem with the hydraulic system.

Engine 2133 will be sent out for maintenance work next week. Engine 2123 will be sent out after 2133 is back in service.

The water tower compartment at firehouse one has been power washed and will be painted on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The roof to the tower still leaks, as it has not been repaired.

We still have not received bids on repair to ceiling of the bay at firehouse one or for the water tower storeroom.

The new compressor and fill station should be installed by the end of the month. This is part of the \$44,000.00 grant amendment award that was included with the SCBA FEMA grant award.

Firefighter Apryll Dueshop was granted a disability pension and a replacement is needed for the shift.

The passenger door to ambulance 2182 needs to be repaired at an estimated cost of \$1,100.00. Ambulance 2152 had shims installed in one door hinge to prevent it from binding, and had the broken shackle for the rear spring replaced.

Ambulance 2152 had two alternators replaced. Tom Kissel replaced the alternators, vacuum pump and the belt. We do need a new ambulance.

Old Bess was brought back after having the motor rebuilt and new tires and batteries put on. Our thanks to Manny at Harvey Pallets for his generous donation to put the engine back in service.

The Fire Department participated in honoring Alderman Janko by flying the American flag at 123<sup>rd</sup> Street and Western Avenue for the funeral procession. The Crestwood Fire Department loaned the flag to us and the Alsip Fire Department assisted with their ladder truck. Chief Vrshek expressed his thanks to both departments.

The Fire Department participated in the "National Night Out Against Crime" with the Police Department.

The bunting that was above firehouse one was to honor former firefighter Hank Runge.

Chief Vrshek asked to send Chris Adlington for training to be a CPR instructor and for tuition reimbursement for Adam VanEvery.

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

The RIMKUS investigative team conducted a two day fire investigation class at the Public Works Department on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have use of the props when the class is completed.

A discussion took place regarding the Civil Service Commission closing the current eligibility list and the lieutenants' promotional list.

Chief Vrshek checked into the possibility of a SAFER grant to pay for six Firefighters. Deputy Chief Luety is working on the grant.

Alderman Johnson asked where job openings are being posted. They are posted on the Blue Line, they will be on the City's website, and possibly on Channel 4.

Last month the Committee approved a schedule of increased fees, which was forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for review. The Judiciary Committee has requested that these increases be approved by Director John Rita before any action is taken. I have forwarded Director Rita a copy of the email outlining the fees.

The cooperation in the community to support the donations for the FEMA Radio Grant has been very good. The fundraiser will be held at the Double Play Saloon on August 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. 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. As of this meeting we have collections and promises of approximately \$11,000.00 including a \$2500.00 donation by MetroSouth Medical Center. This means that the City's portion of the grant will be paid exclusively by private funds. Our thanks to the business community and the private citizens who made donations and purchased tickets.

### **Police Department Report**

The Meadows Golf Course shooting incident is still open.

The Police Department patrolled 17,789 miles for the month of July. 2865 calls answered.

541 Parking Citations  
426 Moving Citations  
301 Traffic Stops  
23 Felonies  
81 Misdemeanors  
13 Warrant Arrests  
45 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)  
52 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$33,335.21

### **Detective Division**

43 Case Assignments in July  
79 Cases closed  
13 Cases pending apprehension  
23 Cases pending lab  
76 Open cases  
7 Warrant Cases

Officer Leverton resigned on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to go to a larger police department, closer to where he grew up.

Officer Kaczanowski has returned to work after being off injured.

Ethics and diversity training will resume in September, most of the Police Department has already attended.

The 911 director has recently resigned. Sergeant Thomas Morey and Deputy Chief Cornell will oversee the day to day operations. Sgt. Morey and Jim McGeever are doing a staff study on the 911 center.

Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell are looking over the applications for the 911 center and should be able to determine how many dispatchers we will need to hire.

Six of the seven part time officers took the physical agility test and passed. The last person to take the test will have to do so by Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

The boot program will officially begin in approximately one week. The parking ticket clerks received training on the software on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The letters notifying the violators were sent out last week. The worst offenders will be targeted first.

Follow ups on vehicle stickers will be done to be sure that car owners are compliant.

Sergeant Morey is reviewing traffic situations around schools before the school year starts.

The information regarding the increase in the fine for violation of the Handicapped Ticket Ordinance to \$350.00 was brought before the Judiciary Committee for amendment to the current Ordinance.

National Night Out celebration was held on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> in front of Blue Island Police Department. Everyone appeared to have a good time. In the dunk tank, the Fire Department raised \$43.00 for the Eisenhower High School football team, and the Police Department raised \$85.00 for An Angel's Touch. There ensued a lively discussion about what type of swim wear the Fire Department should wear next year in order to increase their revenue.

Alderman Stone remarked on the wonderful tour that Officer King gave of the Police Department to the children at National Night Out.

Director John Rita expressed appreciation to Chief Vrshek, Deputy Chief Cornell, and Deputy Chief Luety for their help in assisting him in taking on difficult tasks in their departments.

Our next meeting is September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the East Annex.

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