

**Amberley Village Council
Police/Fire Committee – Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014**

Present: Peg Conway (Chair), Ed Hattenbach (committee), Rich Bardach (committee), Tom Muething, Bill Doering, Chief Wallace, Scot Lahrmer

Prior Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of Nov. 20 were approved as submitted.

General Update/Highlights of 2013 Annual Report

In view of the Committee's stated goal of meeting more often and becoming better informed about police and fire operations, a review of last year's Annual Report was the focus of the meeting. The Chief highlighted a number of areas:

- Staffing (p. 3) – Being past the vacation season, they elected not to immediately replace the vacant position as a cost savings, a goal only partially achieved due to overtime necessitated by two injuries. The Chief expects to be back to 16 officers by late January/early February of 2015.
- Communications (p. 4) – Since the dispatch arrangement with Silverton was ended, the part-time dispatchers are no longer needed. In 2015, the Chief would like to explore changes to the alarm monitoring program to enhance service to residents, particularly the addition of video monitoring, and to increase revenue to the department.
- Services and complaints (p. 10) – Chief noted that the increase in 911 call volume over the past few years is at least partially attributable to the use of cell phones. Often they receive multiple calls for the same incident. The large increase in the number of vacation house checks over the past five years is due to a change in the way of counting. Every individual check of a house is now tabulated separately, rather than counting only the number of houses requesting the service.
- Police training (p. 23) – They plan to continue training for at least 2,100 hours per year but intend to increase the proportion that is provided internally. More officers are being trained in specialized areas to provide instruction to others.
- Fire incidents (p. 31-32) – They've changed the labeling of fire runs/incidents to be in conformity with state and national requirements. This switch resulted in a higher number of incidents, which helps substantiate grant applications, but has not increased fire pay.
- Grant applications – A number are in process, and a summary sheet was distributed. Additionally, they may apply for a police grant for a program to allow information to be obtained via cell phones, which would increase efficiency.
- Citations breakdown (p. 17) – The Chief related that he had attended a four-hour session at the Mayerson JCC the previous day on civil rights, with speakers from the Department of Justice and the FBI. Racism was discussed as well as LGBT issues. In the 2013 Annual Report the breakdown of citations by race was just about 50-50 black and white. Chief also provided a handout showing the 2014 breakdown year to date, which reflected similar percentages. He explained that

the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) requires this type of tracking; if the numbers become too unbalanced, a department would need to report to CALEA and explain why. Chief and Lt. Blum track Amberley's numbers monthly and emphasize to staff the need to patrol the entire village. He provided

- Mileage (p. 26) – Mileage is down since five years ago due to less staff. Chief noted that residents have noticed less officer presence on the road.
- Citations by Court (p. 16) -- He also pointed out that the use of technology like the license plate reader has aided enforcement and helped increase the number of arrests. Adoption of the magistrate system for Mayor's Court has significantly increased the number of cases being handled in the village, resulting in increase revenue. For 2014 through November, 980 cases have been heard in Amberley compared to 526 in 2013, while 92 were sent elsewhere compared to 129 in 2013.

In response to a question, the Chief described the department's ongoing training in the use of force and noted that Amberley Police do not escalate as quickly on the force continuum as other departments.

Peg Conway asked that the Public Safety Department consider ways to participate in the Village's 75th anniversary in 2015 via displays and/or an event, given that the Village's founding was closely related to the need for police and fire protection.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.