

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicholas Sacchinelli, Chair; Dominique Johnson; Thomas Keegan, Diana Revolut, George Tsiranidis, Lisa Shanahan, Manny Langella

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Theresa Argondezzi, Health Department; Thomas Kulhawik, Chief of Police; Susan Zecca, Deputy Chief of Police; Gino Gatto, Norwalk Fire Chief; Michele DeLuca, Executive Director of Emergency Management; Laoise King, Chief of Staff

OTHERS: David Heuvelman, Common Council

I. Welcome and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mr. Sacchinelli.

II. Approval of the October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**** MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2020 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. Public Participation

There were no public comments.

IV. New Business Discussion Item

Action Items

Police Department

1a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all documents to apply for and accept grant funds from the 2021 CT. Department of Transportation DUI Grant in the amount up to \$61,400.00.

**** MR TSIRANIDIS MOVED THE ITEM.**

Deputy Chief Zecca said it is a standard grant and it was pushed back due to COVID.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1b. Authorize the Police Chief, Thomas E. Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments thereto as may be necessary to implement all programs through the 2021 CT Department of Transportation DUI Grant in the amount of up to \$61,400.00 pursuant to such grant funding.

**** MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM.**

Deputy Chief Zecca said it a standard of the capital budget.

Ms. Johnson asked if the funds are not can they be used in the next fiscal year. Chief Kulhawik said they can be authorized to use the next year. He said these vehicles are not hybrid, but next year they will be hybrids and will stay in the fleet for 10-15 years.

Mr. Tsiranidis asked if any vehicles are being retired. Chief Kulhawik said yes the front line gets moved back to extra duty and then the extra duty eventually get retired. Mr Sachinelli asked about the build out. Chief Kulhawik said Ford changed the entire body structure of the new vehicle and nothing can be reused. He said other than that not much is different. He said they are putting in a new radio system for the whole city and added the look will be the same with the gold outline and the white stripe.

Mr. Keegan said about police accountability bill anything related to dash cams. Chief Kulhawik said all vehicles should have them by July 1, 2022.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2a. Authorize the city's purchasing agent to execute a purchase order on behalf of the Police MHQ, Inc. under contract #12PSX0194, for the purchase of twelve (12) 2021 Ford Utility Interceptor AWD for the amount not to exceed \$428,993. Account # 092130010-5777-C0665.

**** MOVED THE ITEM.**

3a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute an agreement with New England Radio Consultants, LLC for consulting and implementation service addressing the 'Customer Responsibilities' and "Assumptions" as outlines in the statement of work within the Motorola Solutions, State Tie-In Norwalk Radio System Project, per sole source procurement request for an amount not to exceed \$50,000; from Account #09193610 5777 C0615

3b. Authorize Chief, Thomas E. Kulhawik to change order (s) to the above agreement for the amount not to exceed \$5,000. Account # 09193610 5777 C0615.3

**** MR. TSIRANIDIS MOVED ITEMS 3A and 3B.**

Chief Kulhawik said this is to rebuild all radio systems including police, fire, EMS and Parks & Recreation. He said we need to find someone to oversee the project and they recommended someone from Northeast Radio Systems. He said it is a considerable amount of money but will save us a lot in the long term.

Deputy Chief Zecca said he will bill us on an hourly basis. Mr. Sachinelli asked what he will be looking at. Chief Kulhawik said he will be looking at the whole thing and overseeing it from a city point of view.

Ms. Johnson asked if this person is an expert in Motorola. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute an agreement with New England Radio Consultants, LLC for consulting and implementation service addressing the 'Customer Responsibilities' and "Assumptions" as outlines in the statement of work within the Motorola Solutions, State Tie-In Norwalk Radio System Project, per sole source procurement request for an amount not to exceed \$50,000; from Account #09193610 5777 C0615

Chief Kulhawik said Paul Zito is one of the highest ranking in the state in their radio system and had intimate knowledge of what we are doing.

Ms. Johnson said are we confident that we won't have to do a change order. Chief Kulhawik said he expects to come in under \$50,000.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fire Department

1a. Authorize the purchasing agent to execute a purchase order, on the behalf of The Norwalk Fire Department, to NORMOMCT& GREAT HILL RD, NAUGATUCK, CT 06770. For sole source purchase of 25 APX8500 ALL BAND MP MOBILE RADIOS not to exceed \$177,402.00 funds are available from Account # 5777-C0677.

**** MS. JOHNSON MOVED THE ITEM.**

Chief Gatto said the department is into the second phase which is the mobile radio upgrade. The radios are 10 years old and they are being phased-out. He said it is a tri-band radio.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into a contract with Morris and McDaniel, Management Consultants, 117 South Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 to develop and administer a firefighter entry level exam, not to exceed the amount of \$75,000.00.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED THE ITEM.**

Chief Gatto said the Mayor and Fire Commissioner want to move forward with a test for City of Norwalk. Morris & McDaniel was the only company to respond. The price of the test is \$67,500 and he added we have to do some recruitment so he added some money to the request.

Ms. Revolus asked about the recruitment plan and suggested a bar code on your phone that will lead someone right to the website. Chief Gatto said they have put together a package of information but it is not on the website yet. He added the barcode is a great idea.

Ms. Johnson asked about recruitment. Chief Gatto said he has the name of someone the police department used for recruitment who will help more so for social media.

Ms. Revolus asked if any of the recruitment material will be in another language. Ms. DeLuca said some of the information was in Spanish in 2015.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. Old Business

1. Fire Update & Discussion

Chief Gatto said in 2019 there were 7,228 calls for service are down this year to 6,673. He said fire commissioner are looking for an assistant chief and we now have two. One is for operations and one for administration. Chief Gatto said in November at Station 5 he said a Memorial Plaque was put up for Sandy Anderson for his 47 years of dedicated service.

He said only 5 positive cases in the Department and one member is still out but is getting better. Chief Gatto said 71 members got their first shot in December and 38 did not want the vaccine and said 28 they would wait. He said the second shot was given this week. Going to set up a small satellite office at City Hall to do small plan reviews.

Mr. Keegan asked out of the 5 Fire Houses how many have accommodations for women. Chief said Broad River is still under construction but the others provide for privacy.

2. Health Department Update and Discussion

Ms. D'Amore said the big update is the start of vaccination. She said over 1,000 people have now been vaccinated. She said about 50 emergency response team are volunteering. She said we are working with the VAMS System but it is challenging for people 75 and over and it is only in English. Ms. D'Amore said we are working with the state to manage our own electronic health record system. She said Norwalk has over 8,000 positive cases and over the past couple of weeks cases are starting to go down. She urged people not to forget any of the protective measures since vaccination will take months.

Ms. King said Norwalk residents can register through VAMS and get appointments outside of Norwalk. She said the 1,000 only applies to the Norwalk Health Department and not Norwalk Hospital or any other facilities in Norwalk.

Ms. Revolus said she wants to know where the Health Department is about talking to the community about proper nutrition and the proper way to wear masks.

Ms. Argondezzi said efforts are being made regarding nutrition, physical activity and chronic disease management. She talked about the healthy life project and said a lot of that is about food access. Ms. Argondezzi said she there are some materials on the website about boosting your immune system.

Ms. Revolus said she would like to see these ideas advocated and distributed. She said the goal is to have a healthy community for everyone.

Mr. Sachinelli thanked the Health Department for the COVID Town Hall on the vaccine rollout.

Ms. Shanahan asked about anti-vax issue and how it is being handled. Ms. D'Amore said they are seeing as more people get vaccinated peers are encouraged to get the vaccine.

3. Police Update & Discussion

Chief Kulhawik gave kudos to the Health Department for the vaccine rollout. He said they are only down 3 officers with COVID at this time. He said 50 percent have taken the vaccine and he expects numbers will continue to increase.

He said they are looking for a new system for tracking vehicles. He said the department has added a Lieutenant of compliance and accountability to do inspections and review body cams, dash cams and all surveillance cameras and eventually to work with officers for vehicle inspections.

Ms. Johnson asked about mental health evaluation in the accountability bill will happen every 5 years. She has heard from constituents why not three years. Chief Kulhawik said

before an officer is hired a very rigorous day long psychological examination. He did not think the evaluation would be needed more often than every 5 years.

Ms. Shanahan asked if there are some triggers to bring in officers sooner. Chief Kulhawik said unusual activities could allow the Department to send officers for further evaluation.

Ms. Johnson asked if there will be a second LGBT liaison added. Chief Kulhawik said there is only one Lieutenant Blake and eventually other officers will assist him.

Ms. Johnson asked about a possible Citizens Advisory Board. He said he would be fine with an informal advisory board and would not need charter revision.

Mr. Revolus said what Ms. Johnson is talking about came from the black community. She said she knows it is over a year since Officer Ramirez passed and asked if anything was being done for him considering how impactful he was to the community. Chief Kulhawik said a portion of Chester Street will be named for him hopefully in May. He said Officer Ramirez was a close friend and he still misses him.

Mr. Keegan said as a former police officer he said the real goal of any investigation is to find the truth and he said in the case of Senator Duff he feels the truth did come out in the end and Chief Kulhawik did mete out discipline that was appropriate and has confidence in the Norwalk police department and Chief Kulhawik to lead the department.

Mr. Langella said he appreciates the open and honest dialogue with the Chief and he thanked him for his work. Mr. Tsiranidis echoed the sentiments of Mr. Keegan and Mr. Langella and complimented the Chief for having a good department and added he is doing a great job. Chief Kulhawik said we have to own what happened and put it behind us and move forward.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Venuto
Telesco Secretarial Services