

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
AGENDA  
November 21st, 2019  
4:30 P.M.**

- I. Agenda Changes
- II. Adoption of Minutes
  1. September 19th 2019
- III. Current and Future Fire/EMS Challenges
- IV. Police Department Staffing
- V. Police Updates
- VI. General Information
- VII. Town Council Agenda
- VIII. Next Meeting Date: December 19th, 2019
- IX. Adjournment

**Public Safety  
Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
November 21st 2019**

Mrs. Gulley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Committee members present included Tina Gulley, Chairperson, and Deborah Ball.

Also present: Robert Lawrence, Town Council Member; John B. Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police; Jon Morr, Building Official and Matt Kite, Commonwealth's Attorney.

**I. Agenda Changes**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**II. Adoption of Minutes**

1. September 9th 2019

Mrs. Ball made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Upon a unanimous vote the motion was approved.

**III. Current and Future Fire/EMS Challenges**

Bart Bartos, Chief of the West Point Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad thanked the Committee for allowing him to open the dialog and speak today. Chief Bartos presented the Committee with the report on the past, current and future of the Fire Department and EMS Department. Chief Bartos also stated that future challenges are becoming increasingly difficult, West Point has provided a high level of quality service to town residents that have become difficult to maintain. Today it takes a volunteer 1000 to 1200 hours and 3 years to obtain their EMT certification, ALS certification requires an Associate's degree. Currently, the department is operational because there are paid employees to cover shifts. Cost and expenses have drastically increased, the life expectancy for a volunteer is 5 years and there is a decrease in volunteers across the country.

Chief Bartos suggested the Town open the dialogue regarding the future of the fire department and rescue squad, by talking about this now will help prevent some of the pitfalls that have been seen recently in other localities.

**IV. Police Department Staffing**

Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police advised that the department is currently down one officer, officer Rusk has resigned. Chief Sawyer stated that the department is in desperate need of supervision especially on the night shift. When certain types of events occur there are a lot of decisions that need to be made and when events occur the Town has to rely on other agencies for assistance, to have a Sargent position would be a great benefit. Chief Sawyer also stated that he is reviewing the current auxiliary staff and the possibility of new part-time auxiliary officers.

The consensus of the Committee is that Chief Sawyer can proceed with a Sargent position and additional auxiliary part-time officers.

**V. Police Updates**

Chief Sawyer advised that the police department has a vehicle that needs to be surplused and it is not necessary to purchase a replacement vehicle, that the department can work with what they have for now.

**VI. General Information**

Mr. Edwards advised he has no General Information.

**VII. Town Council Agenda**

Mr. Edwards stated there are no agenda items for the Town Council agenda.

**VIII. Next Meeting Date: December 19th 2019**

Mr. Edwards advised that the December meeting will be after the Town Council meeting and suggested that we can wait till later to see if there is a need for a meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mrs. Gulley adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.



Tina Gulley  
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow  
Town Clerk