



CITIZEN'S POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CPOC)

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Room 215, Village Hall

Minutes

Present: **CPOC:** Kevin Barnhart, Robert Becker, James Downing, Bob Pickrell
Sue Humphreys (electronic attendance – phone)
Absent: John Nowicki
Police Department: Police Chief LaDon Reynolds, Commander Shatonya Johnson
Village Staff: Kira Tchang, Assistant Village Manager/HR Director, Sue Kornatowski,
HR Generalist
Guest: Karen Daniel, Trustee Walker-Paddakotla

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

There was a public comment by Karen Daniel who gave the committee a brief overview of her work background and stated that she was just observing since this is a committee she is interested in joining.

There was a motion to approve the August 20, 2019 minutes. The motion was proposed by Committee Member Becker and seconded by Committee Member Pickrell. Ayes: All, Nays: None. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chief Reynolds provided an overview of the new hires in the Police Department. Seven officers just started in the academy and one is in the Field Training Program. Five just graduated the academy. Chief Reynolds gave the graduation address at the academy. The orientation program which takes place prior to the Field training program will include an intro to Oak Park, Ethics training and Diversity training to understand where they work and where they police. We also have two people who joined that were hired by other police departments and decided to work in Oak Park.

Commander Johnson stated the factors that helped them decide to join Oak Park were that they were impressed with the schedule and how close the program is to Chicago. The top thing was the diversity and they were impressed with the Chief of Police. There is also a third person who had an opportunity to go to a northern suburban Police Department who gave him an offer and date sworn in and wanted to come here instead.

Committee Member Downing stated that the Police Department needs a better police station. Chief Reynolds indicated that a conversation has started. Chief Reynolds stated that the next entry level police recruitment test is coming up and the Sergeant test is in January. The Police Department is also working on the commander recruitment process. One sergeant retired after 30 years. We are also working with Illinois Association Chief of Police for an Interim Deputy Chief. We are looking for someone with experience to mentor a young department.

Chief Reynolds reviewed the domestic stats. There are no significant changes. There are also no significant changes in the traffic stops. There was a discussion with the Committee Members regarding the traffic stops.

Chief Reynolds stated that there are only five officers remaining that need to be Taser trained. There are currently 115. There are employees that are out on leave that are counted as staff. Chief Reynolds stated the domestic violence statistics. For the last seven to eight years we have worked with Sarah's Inn and tracked incidences. If we see a pattern we try to offer services if we have permission from the victim. In 2016 there were 1028 incidences, 2017 they were 950 and 2018 they were 964. 2019 year to date is 678. Domestic violence in 2019 year to date is 118. In 2018 there were 166 instances.

There was a question by Trustee Walker-Peddakotla regarding domestic violence awareness month and what the police department is doing since some victims are afraid to come forward. Chief Reynolds stated that they do it all year. Officers come up with clothing drives/food drives. These are things we do all year round. Chief Reynolds agreed that heightened awareness this month would be beneficial.

Committee Member Downing asked how many openings are there currently. Chief Reynolds stated that full-time staff is 119 and we have over hire approval to 125. There are a couple of officers on TTD that recently moved to pension. There was another one last week.

Committee Member Downing commented that the Police Department is well staffed. Chief Reynolds stated that at the end of 2017 they were looking for 23 officers. We are a young police department training becomes paramount. Committee Member Humphreys asked about publishing demographics. Chief Reynolds stated that they are still looking at this and they are also working with the Communications Director on putting online our complaint process online. Committee Member Barnhart asked if the committee could review the form and possibly enhance the form. Chief Reynolds stated that it is a sworn affidavit and cannot change the form. It is a legal document per state law.

Committee Member Barnhart asked where the form will be online. Chief Reynolds stated Facebook, Twitter and the Oak Park FYI. Committee Member Barnhart asked if it could be linked to the Village Website under CPOC and Chief Reynolds stated yes, it can be. Committee Member asked when it would be online and Chief Reynolds is hoping before the end of the year, possibly next month.

Chief Reynolds stated that he encourages people to make complaints. All of us are smarter than one of us.

Director Tchang asked the committee about the 2020 workplan. Committee Member Downing asked when the workplan is due. Director Tchang stated that if the committee has any questions or concerns they can discuss during the next meeting. The workplan will be added to the next agenda. Committee Member Downing asked about the committee having a budget. Director Tchang stated that there was not a budget for the committee but if there is a compelling item that cost some money we can talk about it. Trustee Walker-Peddakotla stated that the committee could request money from the Board.

Chief Reynolds reviewed the demographics of the department. We are down 10 officers as of October 2 and down 5 civilians. 68.8% white, 18% black, 11.71% Hispanic, 4.5% other. The 2010 census is 67.7% white, 21.7% black, 5.8% Hispanic, 5% other. Chief Reynolds stated that he gets kudos from other police departments on the demographics. The department is 86.5% male 13.5% female which is much higher than national average.

There was a motion by Committee Member Becker seconded by Committee Member Pickrell to go into Executive Session. Ayes: All, Nays: None. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.