

City of Gardner, Massachusetts
City Council Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of June 11, 2018

Committee Chairman Councillor James Johnson called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall. Committee members Councillors Karen Hardern and Edward Gravel were present.

Other officials present and/or participating were Public Health Director Jennifer Susen-Roy; Police Chief Neil Erickson; Deputy Chief of Police Richard Braks; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

Health Department Budget – Jennifer Susen-Roy

- Nursing Services – Budget reduced from \$15,000 in FY18 to \$7,500 in FY19 since there has been a marked reduction in the number of reported communicable diseases. Budget line item also covers the cost of medical supplies.
- Emergency Tenant Relocation/Cleaning – For temporary housing for displaced tenants for health and safety reasons and for cleaning and removal of refuse on private properties.

Chairman James Johnson noted that \$13,127 has been expended YTD for temporary housing (motels) for persons displaced from 94 Pleasant Street.

Landfill Closure Expenses – Jennifer Susen-Roy

- Effective August 1, Seaman Paper will terminate the contract for gas at the Landfill and that “flares will go online full-time.”
- The landfill is mowed twice each year and the wells and air pollutants are monitored.
- No anticipated increase in Waste Management “tipping fees” for curbside trash, recycling, and transfer station. City has a five-year contract that expires in 2020.
- China stopped accepting certain recyclables.

Police Department Budget – Chief Neil Erickson

- Clothing Allowance (57090) – Allowance for new Police recruits. \$6k to \$7k cost per recruit.
- \$3k per recruit to attend the Police Academy – 10 weeks of training - includes PA Training and internal/field training.
- PD currently staffed with 30 Police Officers. In 2003, the PD was staffed with 37 full-time Police Officers, but many were laid-off.
- Armory Equipment – Includes weapons, ammunition, and Taser Contract.
- Portable Radios – Covers maintenance and repairs for all radios and to purchase new radios for the new recruits.
- New Police Vehicles - \$119k allows for the purchase of 2 marked units and 1 unmarked unit; \$124k allows for the purchase of 3 marked units.
- The older SUVs have over 100,000 odometer miles.
- Department still has 2 sedan cruisers.

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- Professional Services – Includes contract for specialized software program to track police education, training, etc.
- Vehicle Supplies – Tires, oil, transmissions, and electronic components in each cruiser.
- College Credits – A contractual obligation that provides for additional compensation to officers with college degrees – many with Associate’s, Bachelor’s, and some with Master’s Degrees.

Dispatch Budget

- Budget includes 3 full-time Dispatch Supervisors and 9 full-time Dispatchers. Provides for around-the-clock coverage.
- The State provided an additional \$360k for Central Dispatch/E911.

Animal Shelter

- 90 applications were received for the open ACO position.
- No longer an “Assistant position” at the Shelter.

Civil Defense

- The Civil Defense operation is now located in the Police Station (formerly housed in the closed South Gardner Fire Station).

Adjournment.

On a motion Councillor Edward Gravel and seconded by Karen Hardern, it was voted to adjourn at 6:44 p.m.