

**Public Safety Sub-Committee  
Minutes of July 22, 2013  
Dracut Police Station**

**Present:** Selectmen Joseph DiRocco, Selectmen John Zimini, Kevin Richardson, Police Chief, David Chartrand, Deputy Police Chief and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

Mr. DiRocco opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. DiRocco stated that the Public Safety Sub-Committee wanted to meet with the Police Department regarding there being no publicity on the recent housebreaks in Town. Mr. DiRocco stated that the surrounding neighborhoods are not aware of what is happening and discussed placing information on the Town's website, local newspapers, etc.

Chief Richardson discussed the local newspapers are only looking for recent arrests and stated that his Officers are trained to speak to neighbors when there is a housebreak.

Mr. Zimini discussed using the reverse 911 system to make residents aware of what is happening in their neighborhoods.

Deputy Chartrand discussed how break-ins are handled and discussed the reverse 911 system being helpful if any entire neighborhood is "hit". Deputy Chartrand discussed most burglars moving on quickly.

The Sub-Committee discussed creating a log listing the housebreaks on the website. Deputy Chartrand stated that he does create press releases for the big occurrences.

Deputy Chartrand provided comparable statistics for the Dracut Police Department from Fiscal Year 2001 which was compared and contrasted with Fiscal Year 2013. Deputy Chartrand stated that they have made significant enforcement on stopping cars over the years.

Deputy Chartrand reviewed the comparable statistics and stated that break-ins had a 32% increase since 2001. Deputy Chartrand reviewed Total Police Incidents, Theft Related Crime, Violent Crimes, Public Order Offenses and Motor Vehicles Offenses.

Mr. Zimini asked if there has been any increase in revenue with motor vehicle offenses. Deputy Chartrand stated that 95% of Officers are giving warnings after checking the person's criminal history and driving record.

Deputy Chartrand discussed Personnel Staffing and stated that since 2001 six positions have been eliminated. Deputy Chartrand discussed the need for Community Policing and stated that this would be the Officer who would go to neighborhoods, etc. Deputy Chartrand stated that they have needed to move Officers into patrols which have taken away from Community Policing.

(Public Safety Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2013)

Deputy Chartrand stated that they have great and motivated Officers working but it is hard to keep Officers motivated with no positions for them to move into.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he didn't want them to take this meeting as criticism; they just wanted to discuss the recent housebreaks and general policies and procedures.

The Sub-Committee discussed the need for additional Officers and the money to help add more manpower to the Police Department. The Sub-Committee discussed making this information public so residents will understand the need for more Officers.

Chief Richardson stated that they could do something regarding the publishing of housebreaks.

Mr. DiRocco discussed creating a log, using the reverse 911 system, putting information on Cable and the Police and Fire Departments giving the Board of Selectmen a monthly update on their Departments.

Chief Richardson stated that he understand that all Departments are running short with staff and Mr. DiRocco discussed the Town budget.

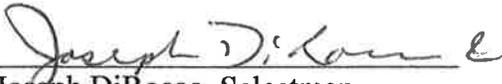
Deputy Chartrand discussed Dracut being geographically comparable to Tewksbury and stated that there is more residential crime in Dracut. Deputy Chartrand discussed Tewksbury's Police Department personnel.

Deputy Chartrand stated that they have high hopes for the School Recourse Officer position for the upcoming school year and stated that the salary for this Officer would be shared 50/50 with the School Department.

Deputy Chartrand discussed the Police Department not being able to do nearly what they would like to do because of staffing constraints. Deputy Chartrand stated that they are not pro-active they are re-active due to staffing constraints.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he understands that they keeping doing "more with less". Deputy Chartrand stated that they are "holding the dam back" and discussed the need for additional Officers to also help with replacements.

Mr. DiRocco adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

  
Joseph DiRocco, Selectmen

  
John Zimin, Selectmen

Recording Secretary  
Shannon Rowe Beaulieu