




AYER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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William A. Murray
Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

To: Town Administrator Pontbriand
From: Chief William A. Murray 
CC: file
Date: February 20, 2016
Re: January Monthly Report

During the month of January 2016 the Police Department logged 566 events requiring 25 incident reports and 7 arrest reports. We assisted the Fire Department on 55 medicals and 7 fire alarms. Here are some of the highlights:

Offense	Total
Animal Complaint	9
Assault	2
Assist Other Agencies	5
Civil Complaint	1
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	5
Disturbance	15
Domestic	3
Fraud	6
Larceny	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	12
MV Stops	174
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Sex Offender Violations	0
Shoplifting	0
Vandalism of Property	0
Weapons Law Violation	0

Over the years the Department has been plagued with inadequate radio communications that we have been able to mitigate but with the narrow banding of the communication channels those efforts are no longer sufficient. At the heart of our concerns is officer safety and as we lack the technical knowledge to proceed with corrections we will be hiring a consultant to assist us. We have also been in a long battle with the Town of Windham New Hampshire who was given the same frequency assignment as us, though we received it first. This was not an issue until the narrow banding but now with their stronger and better equipment they are interfering with our use of portable radios. We have involved state and federal agencies to move Windham off our frequency but the progress is slow going.

As a follow-up: we have interviewed a consultant who will assist us with determining what we need for equipment and are waiting for a quote for services back from him. There is nothing new from Windham but we continue to push for a resolution.

Additional follow-up: the hiring of a consultant has fallen through and we are back where we started with no prospects to get assistance. This is very disappointing news as we do not possess the expertise to rectify our communication issues and problems continue to exist.

Radio follow-up: We have found another consultant who charges reasonable fees that is willing to work with us on the project and will contract to stay to the end to oversee the project. This is great news for us!

Radio follow-up: Working with the states of MA and NH, and Windham PD we have finally moved Windham off our frequency and have experienced no new interference from their transmissions. While great news this does not correct our ongoing problem of poor around town coverage. We have been having one challenge after another in trying to obtain the services of a consultant, the most recent being budget, but we believe we are finally ready to secure the services of one. It will require a Reserve Fund Transfer and we are hopeful the Board of Selectman and Finance Committee will agree that the need is immediate, necessary, and beyond what our current budget can support.

This month the Personnel Board and the Board of Selectmen approved the Records Clerk position giving us the green light to begin the hiring process. The position will start out as part-time and, with the approval of Town Meeting, will go full-time in July. This badly needed position is going to free up my administrative and detective staff from the necessary, but mundane, administration of records so that they can attend to the more important functions of their positions.

On the 20th I presented a budget to the Finance Committee that included a request for 2 additional dispatchers and 2 officers. In my history with the town the PD has not grown in size, a situation that cannot be allowed to continue if we are to provide the services for the community that are demanded of police departments of today. We are absolutely aware of the impact on the Town's finances

On the 22nd I met again with area Police Chiefs to discuss options for addressing opioid abuse in our communities. We will continue meeting and develop a plan that we will jointly present to our respective communities.