



# 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:** March 20, 2016  
**Re:** February Monthly Report

During the month of February 2016 the Police Department logged 537 events requiring 31 incident reports and 10 arrest reports. We assisted the Fire Department on 32 medicals and 11 fire alarms. Here are some of the highlights:

Offense	Total
Animal Complaint	13
Assault	1
Assist Other Agencies	15
Civil Complaint	1
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1
Disturbance	7
Domestic	4
Fraud	3
Larceny	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	28
MV Stops	178
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Sex Offender Violations	0
Shoplifting	0
Vandalism of Property	1
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.

## February 2016 Monthly Report

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.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we hosted a Shadow student from the Shriver Job Corps for half a day. This is a great way for the students interested in the law enforcement or security fields to get a small taste of what it is like. We enjoy participating in Shadow Day and look forward to next year's student.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> we received a \$10,000.00 training grant from the State 911 Department of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. These grant monies will assist us in providing mandatory certification updates and other training for our dispatchers.

I finished up my State mandated yearly In-service Training this month and attended an optional course on nutrition and officer wellness. I was so taken with the class that I will be bringing the instructor to the PD to teach the course to our officers and those of the surrounding towns who have shown interest.