




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

During the month of March 2016 the Police Department logged 832 events requiring 36 incident reports and 12 arrest reports. We assisted the Fire Department on 45 medicals and 10 fire alarms. Here are some of the highlights:

Offense	Total
Animal Complaint	22
Assault	1
Assist Other Agencies	16
Civil Complaint	2
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	4
Disturbance	18
Domestic	7
Fraud	3
Larceny	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	14
MV Stops	407
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Sex Offender Violations	0
Shoplifting	0
Vandalism of Property	3
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.

## March 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.

Radio follow-up: The consultant has been hired and conducted drive-a-longs and equipment inspections this month to assess our coverage and capabilities. He has already defined a need for improvements to our equipment shack and will be submitting a report on our needs next month.

Interviews for the Department's first Records Clerk were conducted this month. We anticipate making a selection from a fine looking group of candidates and requesting an appointment from the Board of Selectmen next month.

This month my counterpart in Shirley, Fire Chief Pedrazzi and his Shirley counterpart, and Dr. Malone attended a 2-day seminar on Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning Training. The two-day course was designed to provide school/school district teams with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to refine and develop high quality multi-hazard evacuation plans as well as how to conduct table top exercises and functional drills. We will be bringing this knowledge back to the Regional School Team to update our Emergency Operations Plan.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> we partnered with the State Police and Shirley PD to conduct Active Shooter Training at the Lura White School. We conduct this training at least once a year in as effort to maintain our skills and learn new techniques.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Gill participated in a Parent Safety Forum at the Page Hilltop School. The forum was designed to inform parents of the safety measures the Department and the Schools have put into place and to address and concerns. An evening session is scheduled for next month.

Ayer and Shirley PD joined with the State Police and the High School this month to conduct a surprise canine sweep of the school. The goal of this operation is to uncover illegal drugs and has become a popular event in many school districts. I am pleased to report that nothing was discovered in this sweep.

Later in the month we attended the Opioid Crisis Awareness meeting held at the Shirley Middle School. The meeting was well attended and provided valuable information. The Department will continue its commitment to combat this crisis and has joined area towns to pool resources.