



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: May 20, 2016
Re: April Monthly Report

During the month of April 2016 the Police Department logged 799 events requiring 53 incident reports and 12 arrest reports. We assisted the Fire Department on 45 medicals and 9 fire alarms. Here are some of the highlights:

Offense	Total
Animal Complaint	21
Assault	0
Assist Other Agencies	14
Civil Complaint	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1
Disturbance	11
Domestic	4
Fraud	1
Larceny	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	10
MV Stops	421
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Sex Offender Violations	0
Shoplifting	2
Vandalism of Property	4
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.

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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.

Heather Sherry was selected from a great list of candidates to be the Department's first ever Records Clerk. Heather was appointed by the BOS on April 5 on a part time basis. If Town Meeting blesses the budget then the Records Clerk will become a full-time position on July 1. If this can be accomplished it will free up time spent by a Detective, the Lieutenant, a Dispatcher, and myself so that we can attend to more important duties.

On the 6th I attended a working group meeting on Understanding the Strengths and Needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth. The meeting was held at the Shriver Job Corps and was facilitated by the North County RHY Network at LUK, Inc. It was an extreme eye opener into this issue that presented ways of assisting and a list of resources that can be used.

Officer Richard Krasinskas and Reserve Officer Casey Scott gave a tour of the station to our local Cub Scout Troop then assisted them in earning their Fingerprint Badge. As part of the tour the officers gave practical demonstrations on the ancient, and messy, art of taking inked prints and then the modern inkless system we currently use.

We began researching options for new sidearms this month after severe and unrepairable breakdowns in our current ones were identified. Though a seldom, if ever, used piece of equipment there is no other as important. By next month we will finish our evaluation and be ready for a purchase. This transition will come at no cost to the Town as we will utilize forfeiture and donated funds.