




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: November 20, 2015
Re: October Monthly Report

During the month of October 2015 the Police Department logged 509 events requiring 30 incident reports and 9 arrest reports. We assisted the Fire Department on 49 medicals and 14 fire alarms. Here are some of the highlights:

Offense	Total
Animal Complaint	14
Assault	3
Assist Other Agencies	10
Civil Complaint	2
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	2
Disturbance	18
Domestic	10
Fraud	0
Larceny	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	17
MV Stops	155
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Sex Offender Violations	0
Shoplifting	0
Vandalism of Property	4
Weapons Law Violation	1

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.

October 2015 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!

October saw me going to the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, this year held in Chicago. The conference continues to impress and offered a great deal of training on relative topics of current interest. The highlight for me was to be publicly addressed by President Obama at one of our assemblies.

Our annual Citizens Police Academy kicked off this month with one of the highest attendances we have seen. This 10 week program is a great way for members of the community to get to know their police officers as people and to experience some of what they do on a daily basis.

Thanks to the generosity of the community and the funding through Capital Planning we were able to complete a project designed to increase the safety and security of our building doors. This same system is going to be used for the verification of occupied cell checks removing the need for a third party device.

The highlight of the month was our annual Halloween Pizza Party at the Council on Aging. This is always a well-attended and fun event that gives us an opportunity to mingle and listen to concerns of our over 60 population while passing on information. This year was the first for Officer Matthew Callahan who, following the retirement of Officer Wilson, will be acting as our Elder Affairs Officer. Matt did a great job and has many ideas for increasing our interaction with these folks.