

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018  
CITY OF PLATTSBURGH COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
4:30PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Councilor Dowdle, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Ensel.  
Mayor Read, Councilor Armstrong and Councilor McFarlin entered after roll call.

**Others Present:** Fire Chief Lawliss, Police Chief Ritter  
Councilor Dowdle indicated Building Inspector McMahon was excused.

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**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Unidentified Speaker** concerned about cats at 23 Tom Miller Rd, leave food out in open container, there have been many problems with this property and it is affecting her property. Accumulation of garbage in front of 23 Tom Miller Rd.

**Unidentified Speaker** spoke about his concerns with 23 Tom Miller Rd, feels it is a Public Health concern too.

**Pat Whipple** lives at 12 Meadowvale, spoke about issues with skunks she has paid \$388 for skunk removal this year already.

**Councilor Dowdle** spoke about cats, local law prohibiting feeding animals, gave background info.

[Discussion by entire group ensued]

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**2. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILORS:**

- 1. Ambulance replacement.** Chief Lawliss explained necessity to replace one in 2018 as fleet getting older. If possible move ambulance in 2018 Capital budget.
- 2. Overtime costs to date.** Fire Chief Lawliss and Police Chief Ritter gave updates on their departments.
- 3. Staffing.** Fire Chief Lawliss and Police Chief Ritter gave updates on their departments.
- 4. Overall Department updates.** Fire Chief Lawliss and Police Chief Ritter gave updates on their departments.

5. **Role of consultant.** Fire Chief Lawliss and Police Chief Ritter gave updates on their departments.

6. **Police Chief Ritter give brief update on ongoing discussions with the Plattsburgh City School District exploring options and feasibility of placing an officer in the school.** Police Chief Ritter gave updates. [Discussion by entire group ensued]

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3. **AGENDA ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM DEPARTMENTS TO BE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

1. Request from Police Chief Ritter for two Police Department employees to attend “Active Threat Integrated Response Course Training” from June 11 -13, 2018 in Oriskany, NY. The total cost should not exceed \$382.50 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund. This training is designed to prepare and improve integration between police, fire and EMS in active shooter events.
2. Request for Fire Chief Scott Lawliss to attend “Quality Improvement Through Accreditation” from April 30 – May 3, 2018 in Rochester, NY. The total cost should not exceed \$1,250.
3. Request from Police Chief Ritter for one Police Department employee to attend “Taser Instructor Course Training” from September 30-October 2, 2018 in Syracuse, NY. The total cost should not exceed \$822.50 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund. This training is necessary as this employee will be able to then train the rest of our officers in Taser use.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
(RC) Roll call: All in Favor

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4. **OLD BUSINESS: None**

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5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilor Kelly** spoke about vacancies in Police and Fire Departments asked both Chiefs if they see filling all. **Fire Chief Lawliss** indicated yes and **Police Chief Ritter** indicated yes and explained why.

**Councilor Ensel** asked what impact all vacancies in Police Department have on Public Safety.

**Police Chief Ritter** explained impact on Police Department.

**Councilor Dowdle** asked about Fire Department vacancies and losing captain’s, etc.

**Fire Chief Lawliss** explained impact on Police Department.

**Mayor Read** indicated a new Police Academy begins in June.

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
(RC) Roll call: Councilors Kelly and Dowdle  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:11 pm**