Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, via hybrid meeting format with Zoom Webinar virtual platform. The in-person location is in the Town Chamber room at the Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

In-Person Attendance: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Todd Cooper, Chair; Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC); Lou Blumenfeld, Chair – EMS Committee; Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director.

Virtual Attendance: Councilor Shamar Mahon (6:12pm); Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire Department; Deputy Chief Stephen Hajdasz, Police Department; Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District; Mayor Anthony Harrington.

Absent: Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Councilor Michael Oliver.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM

Councilor Cooper opened meeting with roll call to confirm quorum.

Police Department Update

Deputy Chief Stephen Hajdasz provided a modified police department update for December 2025 noting the crime remained low, with three burglaries, twenty-one larcenies (including eleven shoplifting cases), and two auto thefts, all of which were recovered. Year-to-date Part I crimes decreased by approximately 32% compared to 2024. He reported burglaries to include a retail break-in under investigation, a domestic-related theft, and a neighborhood dispute that resulted in an arrest. Larcenies primarily involved shoplifting, vehicle break-ins, and financial fraud cases, which remain ongoing. Both stolen vehicles were recovered.

The department currently has four vacancies: three officers and one sergeant. Hiring efforts continue with one recruit at the POST Academy, one awaiting the Hartford Academy in March, and one officer in field training. A sergeant promotional list remains active.

December traffic activity included 65 accidents, 139 traffic stops, three DUI arrests, and 90 enforcement details. Activity decreased slightly due to the expiration of the State DOT

speed grant, with plans to reapply. Enforcement focused on Maple Avenue, Burr Road, Kenwood Circle, Westbrook Road, and Grammer and Tobey Streets, supported by speed display and data collection devices. The mental health clinician responded to 24 calls, resulting in emergency evaluations, voluntary commitments, and ongoing follow-ups.

Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance completed responder recertifications, continued monthly training, updated EMS protocols, and conducted equipment inspections and medication reviews.

Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager, commended Captain Klonberg for assuming leadership of Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance and expanding emergency operations across the Town, noting significant improvements in coordination and preparedness. Deputy Chief Hajdasz confirmed Captain Klonberg's active collaboration with state agencies and local departments in emergency planning, storm response, and public safety communications, and praised his exceptional performance.

Councilor Mahon commended the Bloomfield Police Department for its prompt and courteous response to a roadway obstruction on Park Avenue following high winds, noting the department's attentiveness to community needs. Deputy Chief Hajdasz thanked the Councilor and emphasized the department's 24-hour responsiveness and coordination with Public Works to address roadway hazards efficiently.

Fire Department Updates

Center Fire District-

Chief Peter Barnard reported that the department responded to 39 calls for service in December, including false alarms, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous conditions, carbon monoxide calls, and two fires. One fire involved a mutual aid response to East Granby, and the other was a garage fire on Boundary Lane, which was contained with assistance from the Blue Hills District. There was a total of 558 calls for 2025.

Department updates included ongoing firehouse maintenance, completion of annual air mask fit testing and breathing air system inspections, and initiation of estimates for a boiler replacement at Company 1. Community outreach activities included participation in the Bloomfield Holiday Parade and holiday events for members and families.

Training activities included multi-station drills, departmental meetings, year-in-review training, and monthly maintenance exercises.

Blue Hills Fire District-

Chief Willie Jones reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department responded to 43 calls for service in December, with no major incidents. Calls included false alarms, EMS/rescue responses, hazardous conditions, service calls, good intent responses, and one fire. Five responses were provided as mutual aid to Bloomfield Center Fire.

For 2025, the department handled 497 calls, a slight decrease from 2024, with only one working structure fire, reflecting effective fire prevention efforts.

Training in December included rapid intervention response, hazardous gas detection, and departmental planning for 2026.

Community outreach activities included participation in the Christmas parade and tree lighting, a fire safety presentation at a local daycare, and hosting the annual Senior Holiday Luncheon.

EMS Report

Mr. Lou Blumenfeld, Chair – EMS Committee, reported that the EMS Committee met on January 12, 2026, to review recommendations regarding increased volunteer incentives. The Committee emphasized the need to adjust incentives to reflect inflation, recent federal tax changes affecting volunteers, and to support inclusion of the increase in the FY 2025–2026 budget. The proposed adjustment, estimated at approximately $25,000, was described as modest overall but significant in supporting ambulance volunteers.

Councilor Mahon thanked Mr. Blumenfeld for his report and inquired whether the proposed $25,000 increase in EMS volunteer incentives was sufficient. Mr. Blumenfeld explained that the amount was calculated by the committee to account for inflation, recent tax impacts, and volunteer time, providing approximately $25 per 5-hour shift. Councilor Mahon expressed support for the proposal, noting its importance in appropriately recognizing volunteers' contributions, while acknowledging budget considerations.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed support for recognizing volunteer EMS personnel and emphasized the need to review historical data and financial information during the upcoming budget season to make an informed decision. Councilor Cooper agreed, noting that any adjustments could not be implemented this fiscal year and should be considered as part of the next budget cycle. Mr. Blumenfeld confirmed that the committee understands the timing and looks forward to addressing the matter.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Ms. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported on December activities, highlighting recent and upcoming CEEC activities. The Town's Tree City USA application for 2025 was submitted and is pending DEEP review. Bloomfield's community solar initiatives received recognition from the Simsbury Sustainability Committee, which has invited the Town to participate in their third sustainability fair on May 2. The CEEC also plans to promote the Trees for Bloomfield Initiative and the resident-led Pollinator Pathway Program, with a kickoff event scheduled for February 4. The Spring Shred Day is tentatively scheduled for May 9 to coincide with the sustainability fair.

Ms. Jones noted a resident inquiry regarding deer crossing signage; the matter was referred to the Police Department and Public Works, who reported one collision in the past five years.

Upcoming CEEC events include a "Walk and Learn" tour of Seabury's solar and geothermal installations on February 14. Ms. Jones emphasized Bloomfield's ongoing leadership in solar and renewable energy initiatives.

West Hartford Bloomfield Health Updates

Ms. Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District reported on public health initiatives, services, and upcoming events:

Vaccinations and Health Services:

- Monitoring flu season (H1N1 Type A) and norovirus activity; advising residents to contact physicians if ill.
- Connecticut continues following Academy of Pediatrics guidelines; childhood immunization schedules remain unchanged.
- Health District continues vaccinating children and adults, insurance covers immunizations.
- Ongoing diabetes education classes (virtual and in-person).

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- Biweekly tabling at Bloomfield Food Pantry with public health materials.
- Nursing services are available on Tuesdays for screenings.

- Radon awareness and test kit distribution for West Hartford and Bloomfield residents.
- Student volunteers assembling overdose kits for community distribution.

December Highlights and Past Events:

- Community engagement at the Bloomfield Food Pantry.
- Continued wellness screenings and educational outreach.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Radon tabling and wellness screenings at Bloomfield Senior and Community Center (Jan 20).
- Student volunteer overdose kit assembly (Jan 23 and 30).
- CHC AmeriCorps educational sessions at Senior Center (Jan 27).
- Healthy Lifestyle workshop covering physical, mental, emotional, and social wellness (Feb 9).
- Bone and posture exercise classes for seniors at Bloomfield Senior Center, led by a University of Hartford physical therapist.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown inquired about the current flu strain and precautions for measles. Ms. Krauss confirmed that the current flu strain is not included in the vaccine and explained that the Health District is following state guidelines for measles, including contact notification, proof of immunization, or titer testing if needed. She noted that the district has been monitoring one case, which has been resolved, and advised residents to contact their primary care provider or the Health District for guidance. Additional measles vaccination is available through the Health District if required.

Councilor Cooper thanked the Health District for their vaccination and public health efforts, noting Connecticut's strategic location and the importance of having resources available to residents. Ms. Krauss acknowledged the comments, highlighting the district's proactive approach, cross-training, and strong community partnerships to ensure preparedness for potential outbreaks.

Public Comment

Jennifer Honan, 36 Duncaster Road, expressed concern about speeding on her street and inquired about ways to become involved in developing cost-effective and sustainable traffic safety solutions. She requested guidance on how residents can participate in

committees or initiatives to address traffic safety and collaborate with the Police Department and other stakeholders.

Gail O'Riley, 8 Maple Ave., (online) reported the traffic-calming measures implemented earlier in the summer near the end of Burr Road, specifically the installation of bollards. Ms. O'Riley noted that all but one of the bollards have since been knocked over, possibly due to plowing, and are currently positioned along the side of the roadway and inquired whether the Department of Public Works, or another appropriate department, would remove the damaged bollards and replace them, or if they would remain in place until permanent traffic-calming improvements are completed.

Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp Jr., stated that he had not previously been informed that the bollards had been knocked down and placed along the roadside and will follow up with the town DPW Director regarding their removal. He reiterated that the bollards were intended as a temporary traffic-calming measure, acknowledging that their damage from winter plowing was anticipated. Due to the planned permanent traffic-calming design implementation for Burr and Maple Roads later this year, he advised that no additional funds would be authorized to reinstall temporary bollards during the winter months. In the interim, the Town will continue enhanced police traffic enforcement efforts. He emphasized the importance of removing the damaged bollards from the roadway but confirmed that replacement will not occur prior to the permanent improvements.

Councilor Cooper provided the approval of minutes for December 10, 2025. The motion was moved to accept the approval of minutes with the changes of attendance noting Councilor DeBeatham-Brown being in-person and Ms. Paula Jones being virtual, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, second by Councilor Mahon

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm