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, February 11, 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; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC); Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director.

Virtual Attendance: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Councilor Shamar Mahon; Councilor Michael Oliver; Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire Department; Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District.

Absent: Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Councilor Cooper opened meeting with roll call to confirm quorum.

Police Department Update

Chief Paul Hammick reported that overall incidents were up 43% compared to January of the previous year, with 30 larcenies—mostly shoplifting—and one verified auto theft, while a non-fatal shooting involving a stolen vehicle originating from Hartford remains under investigation. He also noted ongoing staffing vacancies alongside recruitment progress, and typical January traffic activity, including accidents, enforcement efforts, and targeted patrols for speeding concerns. Additionally, the department's mental health clinician responded to 18 calls, and EMS training and CPR instruction were successfully completed during the month.

Fire Department Updates

Center Fire District

Chief Peter Barnard reported that the department responded to 52 calls in January, most of which were false alarms, along with several service calls including lift assists, electrical issues, and hazmat incidents, while also assisting with mutual aid and storm coverage. He

noted continued operational updates such as implementing tanker operations for dual responses, completing annual equipment testing, ongoing maintenance, and multiple training sessions. The department also remained active in community outreach, including interdepartmental coordination for upcoming 100th anniversary events and a successful fundraiser.

Councilor Cooper asked whether buried fire hydrants were located on private residential properties and if efforts were being coordinated with the police department to notify residents. Chief Barnard confirmed that some fire hydrants are on both residential and commercial properties and stated that the town distributed informational outreach to residents, noting that enforcement authority rest with the police department and fire marshal.

Councilor Oliver asked about the number of fire hydrants located on private property that may not be cleared of snow. Chief Barnard responded that he did not have an estimate noting that crews frequently encounter buried hydrants during calls and sometimes assist residents who are unaware of their responsibility. Councilor Oliver acknowledged the challenges posed by heavy snow and commended the department for going above and beyond to help residents.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that Blue Hills Fire responded to 52 calls in January, primarily alarm malfunctions, sprinkler activations, and accident-related incidents, with no civilian or firefighter injuries, while also providing mutual aid, hazmat support, and storm standby coverage. He highlighted ongoing training, community outreach activities such as library reading visits and a rabies clinic and noted members' participation in professional development and cancer awareness. The Chief also acknowledged the passing of longtime member, James Colopinto, and the department's attendance at his wake.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported on January activities, reporting that the town's Tree City USA application received state approval from Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and is pending final review by the Arbor Day Foundation, which she described as positive progress. She also highlighted ongoing collaboration with Simsbury on an upcoming sustainability fair, local initiatives such as a new pollinator pathway effort, and a fully booked educational tour of geothermal and solar installations at Forbes-Seabury.

Councilor Mahon expressed support for the planned tour of Seabury, noting interest in its geothermal and composting systems based on a prior visit. Mrs. Jones acknowledged the

comments, inquired about the composting system's operation, and both agreed that Seabury demonstrates strong environmental leadership in the community.

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 of infectious diseases, with RSV stable and COVID-19 declining.
- Flu activity dropped from a late-December peak, with influenza B expected to rise in March.
- Wastewater data from Connecticut Department of Public Health shows elevated regional levels of COVID-19, RSV, influenza, and norovirus, though norovirus remains below last year.
- Ongoing diabetes education classes (virtual and in-person).

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- Biweekly tabling at Bloomfield Food Pantry with public health materials.
- Weekly nursing services at the Senior Center, with expanded nutrition education activities.
- Student volunteers assembling overdose kits for community distribution.

January Highlights and Past Events:

- Radon Action Month outreach (January 6-7) and material distribution at the Senior Center, Community Center, and library.
- Healthy Lifestyle Workshop held at the Community Center (January 12).

Upcoming Initiatives:

- February 23: Story time at the library, along with Radon Action Month tabling, distribution of materials, and wellness screenings.
- February 27: Bone and Posture class at the Bloomfield Community Center led by physical therapist Christy Ross in partnership with University of Hartford.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown praised the diabetes education class, noting the benefit of virtual options, and inquired about advertising of upcoming events. Ms. Krauss explained

that event information is shared with the town for posting, included in social media, and monthly newsletters, though not currently in the Bloomfield Messenger. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also asked about COVID testing kits; Ms. Krauss clarified that federal distribution has ended, and kits now must be purchased privately, with potential Medicare coverage. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown noted local availability at CVS and thanked Ms. Krauss and the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District for their ongoing services.

Kits can be picked up at 580 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield, Suite 100, or attend one of the tabling events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from January 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, second by Councilor Oliver, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.