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, March 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; Councilor Michael Oliver; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC); Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director; Mayor Anthony Harrington.

Virtual Attendance: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Councilor Shamar Mahon; Chair Todd Cooper, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire Department; Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee

Absent: Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 PM due to technical issues.

Councilor Oliver opened the meeting with roll call.

Police Department Update

Chief Paul Hammick reported that February was a slow month, with total crime only slightly increased by three incidents compared to last year, including one burglary, one sexual assault under investigation, and 31 larcenies largely concentrated at retail locations. The department recorded 51 motor vehicle accidents, 158 traffic stops, three DUI arrests, and responded to 18 mental health-related calls, reflecting reduced activity due to weather conditions.

He also noted four current vacancies, ongoing recruit and officer training progress, and continued efforts in traffic enforcement, data collection, and community safety initiatives.

Fire Department Updates

Center Fire District

Chief Peter Barnard reported that the department responded to 46 calls in February, including water calls, medical assists, hazardous conditions, motor vehicle accidents, and mutual aid responses, with several notable incidents such as structure fires, a tractor-

trailer fire, and a vehicle rollover with extrication. He also highlighted ongoing maintenance, training activities, storm staffing, community outreach events, and participation in mutual aid coverage and the Special Olympics opening ceremony.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that responding to 47 calls in February, including a structure fire at 92 East Harrell Street where a firefighter was injured and transported to the hospital, and a tractor-trailer fire on Northwood Drive, both requiring mutual aid from neighboring departments. The department also provided station coverage during the February 21–22 blizzard, conducted weekly training on fire behavior, ropes and knots, and operating procedures, and met with officials to plan the department's 100-year anniversary festivities.

EMS

Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee, reported that the March 9, 2026 EMS Committee meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum but shared updates, including a recommended increase to the volunteer incentives budget included in the police department's proposed budget and progress on a new ambulance expected to arrive at the dealer in June or July with delivery anticipated in August or September. He also recognized EMS and volunteer ambulance personnel for their preparedness and coordinated response during a recent fire and explosion incident, noting that expanded resources were arranged but ultimately not required

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported on February activities, reporting that the committee hosted a successful geothermal and solar tour at Seabury on Valentine's Day with 12 participants, including cross-town engagement with Simsbury's Planning and Zoning Commission, and highlighted an article covering the event. She also provided updates on monitoring legislative developments, finalizing the committee's 2026 priorities list, upcoming spring events including the April 18th spring cleanup, April 24th Arbor Day celebration (with Tree City USA recertification), participation in the Simsbury Sustainability Fair, and the May 9th Shred Day and Small Electronics Recycling event.

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:

- Weekly nursing services at the Senior Center every Tuesday, now include interactive nutrition education and visualization activities during wellness screenings.
- Monthly tabling and distribution of health materials at the Bloomfield Senior Center and Family Community Center.
- Ongoing diabetes education classes (virtual and in-person).

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- Public health information is tabled at the Bloomfield Food Pantry every other week, providing resources and materials.
- Health Lifestyle Workshops and Bone & Posture classes are held regularly for community education.

February Highlights and Past Events:

- February 2: Monthly table and distribution at Senior Center and Family Community Center.
- February 9: Health Lifestyle Workshop at Bloomfield Community Center.
- February 27: Bone and Posture Class with Dr. Ross, University of Hartford.

February infectious disease trends:

- Flu B peak during the week of February 21, hospitalizations low.
- RSV increased weeks of February 14–21 (600 cases per week), leveled to 400–500 cases/week, hospitalizations low.
- COVID small wave was mid-February; hospitalizations followed trends, wastewater concentrations declined.
- Norovirus wastewater levels are high, but outbreak activity is quiet compared to previous years.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- March 3: CHC AmeriCorp Education Center at Community and Senior Center.
- March 9: Health Lifestyle Workshop at Bloomfield Community Center.
- March 14: Naloxone Training at the Library.
- March 17: Medication Management Fair with UConn School of Pharmacy, Beacon Pharmacy, and Medicine Shop at Bloomfield Community Center.

- March 27: Bone and Posture Class at Bloomfield Community Center with Dr. Ross.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

On behalf of Mr. Jerry Fossey of Fairview Architectural, 75 Peters Road, Councilor Cooper read Mr. Fossey requested that the Town of Bloomfield address pedestrian safety in the industrial corridor along Peters Road, Highland Park Drive, Woodland Avenue, and Blue Hills Avenue, citing increased foot traffic, deteriorating roads, and heavy truck activity. He recommended creating paved or gravel walking paths, exploring a boardwalk over wetlands on Woodland Avenue, relocating bus drop-offs at Blue Hills Avenue to the campus, and encouraging businesses to provide high-visibility safety gear as interim measures to reduce risk and prevent future accidents.

There was discussion regarding the safety of cross and sidewalks throughout the Town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments in person or online

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from February 11, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, second by Councilor Cooper, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.