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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, June 10, 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: Chair Todd Cooper; Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire Department; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC).

Virtual Attendance: Councilor Shamar Mahon; Councilor Michael Oliver, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee; Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District, Chief Jim Simone, Bloomfield Center Fire

Absent: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM

The order of the meeting report was changed from the agenda.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported on several sustainability initiatives and community engagement efforts during May. On May 30, Bloomfield's Spring Shred Day was highly successful despite poor weather, collecting approximately 12,000 pounds of paper and a record 4,305 pounds of electronics, with plans to hold the next event in November while encouraging residents to use curbside recycling for non-confidential paper. Mrs. Jones also announced that Bloomfield earned bronze-level Sustainable CT certification and will pursue silver certification next year. Additionally, she addressed community concerns regarding a potential data center in North Bloomfield, clarifying that no data center proposal is currently being considered by the Town or the Planning and Zoning Commission. She also shared informational resources outlining the potential environmental impacts of data centers to help keep the Council informed on the issue

Police Department Update

Chief Hammick reported that overall crime in May 2026 increased by just over 30% in May, ending a six- to seven-month downward trend. The department responded to 43 larcenies, including 30 shoplifting incidents, one robbery, two sexual assaults under investigation, and 66 motor vehicle accidents, while officers conducted 111 traffic stops, 96 traffic enforcement details, and made two DUI arrests. He also provided staffing updates, highlighted the continued success of the department's mental health clinician program, and reported on Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance's training initiatives, including CPR, Stop the Bleed, AED, and Narcan readiness efforts.

Fire Department Updates Center Fire District

Assistant Chief Jim Simone, filling in for the Fire Chief Barnard, reported that the department responded to 51 incidents in May, including 6 motor vehicle accidents, 11 medical assists, 24 fire and false alarms, 5 hazardous condition calls, and several fire responses, including mutual aid to neighboring communities. He highlighted ongoing firefighter training, community outreach activities, continued collaboration with municipal and regional partners, and the department's focus on recruitment, safety, and operational readiness. He also announced the 100th Anniversary Carnival, scheduled for June 18–21 at First Cathedral Church, and invited the community to attend.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department responded to 35 calls for service in May, including a significant structure fire on Blue Hills Avenue, a shed fire, a vehicle fire, mutual aid responses, and numerous fire alarms, motor vehicle accidents, and gas odor calls. He highlighted the successful completion of Firefighter I certification by five firefighters, ongoing training and community outreach efforts, including a natural gas safety presentation and financial literacy program, and announced upcoming Juneteenth and 100th Anniversary celebration events. Chief Jones concluded by reaffirming the department's commitment to providing safe, reliable emergency services to the community.

EMS

Mr. Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee, reported that the EMS Committee met on May 26 and received updates indicating that Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) operations continue to run smoothly, with staffing changes, new members, and the anticipated delivery of a new ambulance in August, which is expected to be placed into service in September. In response to the age, mileage, and replacement needs of the existing

ambulance fleet, a joint study subcommittee was established to evaluate future ambulance options, costs, and delivery timelines, with a recommendation expected by the end of 2026.

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:

- The Health District continues to offer free tick testing for ticks removed from humans through the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station. Residents concerned about tick-borne illnesses are encouraged to contact their primary care provider, and the Health District assists those without a provider in accessing appropriate care.
- The department is also promoting the upcoming mammogram van in conjunction with its July health fair.

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- The Health District continues to provide Healthy Lifestyle Workshops and Bone and Postural classes led by Health Educator staff and Christy Ross.
- Staff also maintain a presence at Foodshare, offering health education materials and encouraging residents to engage with the Health District at community events.

May Highlights and Past Events:

- During May, the Health District hosted a Healthy Lifestyle Workshop and continued its Bone and Postural classes.
- In early June, staff collaborated on a children's hygiene story time, conducted a Heart Attack Workshop in partnership with the Community Health Network, hosted another Healthy Lifestyle Workshop, and participated in community outreach through Foodshare.

May infectious disease trends:

- The Health District reminded residents that tick season is underway and promoted its free tick testing program as part of ongoing efforts to prevent tick-borne illnesses.
- Officials also emphasized proper tick removal and handling procedures to ensure accurate testing and timely results.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- The Health District will provide health education and outreach at the Bloomfield Farmers Market and Bloomfield Juneteenth Celebration,
- Continue to promote the July health fair and mammogram van and encourage residents to utilize the district's health education resources and services.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Councilor Cooper provided an update on the Maple Avenue traffic project, reporting that the project has reached the bidding phase. The project was officially advertised for bids, with bid submissions scheduled to open on July 8. If the process proceeds as planned, construction is anticipated to begin later this summer following bid review, contractor selection, and contract execution. Councilor Cooper also committed to providing monthly public updates on the project's progress through the Public Safety Subcommittee meetings and minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. (online) James Biffer, 7 Terry Plan Rd., - expressed concerns about excessive speeding on Terry Plains Road, citing a recent motor vehicle accident near his home that he believes was caused by high speeds. Mr. Biffer urged the Police Department to increase traffic enforcement in the area, noting that drivers frequently travel 60 to 80 mph and often disregard the traffic signal at the Terry Plains Road and Tunxis Avenue intersection, creating a significant public safety risk.

2. (online) Laurie Julian, Bloomfield. - thanked the Town Council for providing monthly updates on the Maple Avenue traffic calming project and acknowledged the Town Manager's efforts in advancing the project to the bidding phase. While expressing optimism that the improvements will help reduce speeding, she urged the Town to address the continued increase in oversized industrial truck traffic on Maple Avenue by extending existing truck restrictions and directing heavy vehicles to nearby state roads to improve neighborhood safety and reduce noise.

Councilor Mahon raised concerns about heavy truck traffic on School Street and asked what additional support the Council could provide to improve roadway safety. Chief Hammick responded that patrol officers have been directed to increase enforcement on streets with tractor-trailer and weight restrictions and committed to providing enforcement statistics at the next meeting. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown also raised ongoing safety concerns at East Wintonbury Avenue and School Street curve following a recent accident, and Chief Hammick reported that the Town Engineer has requested a state review and

redesign of the intersection, with an update to be provided at the next Public Safety Subcommittee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from May 13, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, second by Councilor Oliver, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.