Minutes not yet approved.

Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above reference subcommittee held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., 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: Councilor Todd Cooper- Chair; Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire District; Captain Klomberg, Bloomfield Police Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director; India Rodgers, Director Operations & Communications

Virtual Attendance: Councilor Shamar Mahon, Councilor Michael Oliver, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire District, Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District,

Absent: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Police Department Update

On behalf of Chief Hammick, Captain Zachary Klomberg Captain Zachary Klomberg presented the Bloomfield Police Department's July 2026 public safety update, highlighting an isolated road-rage assault, continued increases in larceny involving theft, fraud, and online scams, and a sustained decline in auto theft. He noted that the department is addressing crime trends through enforcement, investigations, interagency partnerships, and community education. Traffic enforcement remained active, with 46 accidents, 148 motor vehicle stops, and targeted enforcement in response to citizen complaints, including concerns around Maple and Burr.

Captain Klomberg also provided personnel updates, recognized retiring Officer Janine Allen for her 10 years of service, and highlighted Officer Moyes and K9 Luna's continued community engagement. Public safety efforts included completion of Stop the Bleed kit installations, new opioid harm-reduction stations, and a physician-equipped quick-

response vehicle operated by Medical Director Dr. Patini. The department also received its new ambulance, which is being prepared for state inspection and certification.

Councilor Mahon thanked Captain Klomberg for the K9 Luna patches and shared that residents were interested in obtaining them. He asked whether additional patches were available and if there would be a cost, suggesting they could potentially be used as a police department fundraiser. Captain Klomberg confirmed there is a supply of Luna patches and stickers, which will be distributed to residents during community events or visits with to see K9 Luna.

Fire Department Updates Center Fire District

Chief Barnard reported that the Center Fire Department to 57 calls for service in July, including six motor vehicle accidents, five hazardous materials incidents, three carbon monoxide calls, 29 false alarms, and other fire, electrical, and emergency calls. The department also provided mutual aid to Windsor and Enfield and responded with Bloomfield Police and Ambulance to a serious two-vehicle accident on Bloomfield Avenue requiring extrication.

Chief Barnard provided updates on ongoing firehouse maintenance, including the HVAC upgrade at Company 1 and servicing of self-contained breathing apparatus equipment. Members participated in community events and a recognition event for four departing firefighters. Training throughout the month included hydrant and ladder operations, aerial truck tactics, water-flow operations, driver training, and firetruck driving certification. The department currently has 37 firefighters and seven cadets' maintenance.

Chief Barnard confirmed that the department's current staffing of 37 firefighters and seven cadets is a strong level for a volunteer department. Despite the recent departure of four members, the department has added new members and remains at a steady staffing level, with the number of cadets increasing from three to seven. Councilor Mahon expressed appreciation for the department's continued recruitment, staffing, and consistent training, emphasizing the importance of having a well-staffed and well-trained fire department to serve the community. Chief Barnard credited the training division for keeping members current with the latest training techniques.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department responded to 44 calls in July, bringing the year-to-date total to 290. There were no major incidents, although the department responded with Center Fire to a fully involved RV fire on Old Pequannock Road, where one firefighter sustained a minor injury. Other calls primarily involved downed wires, false alarms, motor vehicle accidents, and natural gas incidents.

The department continued regular training, covering pumping operations, personal protective equipment, ammonia systems, and review sessions for new and veteran firefighters. Membership continues to grow, with several new candidates progressing through the department's recruitment process. Blue Hills Fire Department also participated in National Night Out at the Bloomfield Pool, providing fire safety information and engaging with residents. Chief Jones also announced that Blue Hills and Center Fire are planning a joint 100th anniversary celebration, including a parade and banquet scheduled for October 3, 2026.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown thanked the Police Department and both fire departments for their outstanding service to Bloomfield, noting that their work helps keep residents safe. She also praised National Night Out as a successful community event that continues to improve each year and recognized the Police Department, Fire Department, and Health District for their participation.

Councilor Mahon also thanked Blue Hills Fire Chief Willie Jones for the department's ongoing community partnership. He highlighted a recent community discussion held at the Blue Hills Fire Department with Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and encouraged residents to engage with the fire departments, noting their willingness to host community events and work with residents.

Chief Jones reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department has more than 40 members, approximately 43–44 including career staff and continues to attract new individuals interested in joining. Councilor Cooper emphasized the importance of the combined efforts of Bloomfield's public safety department in keeping residents safe and encouraged the community to attend and support the Blue Hills and Center Fire Districts' 100th anniversary celebration on October 3, 2026.

EMS

On behalf of Lou Blumenfeld and the EMS Committee, Captain Klomberg reported that July was a particularly busy month for Bloomfield Voluntary Ambulance, with 188 calls for service, including seven cardiac arrests and two trauma alerts resulting from serious accidents. The ambulance also participated in National Night Out and continued to provide medical coverage for 911 calls, town events, private events, schools, and community programs. Captain Klomberg expressed appreciation to both paid and volunteer EMS personnel, with special recognition for the volunteer EMTs who continue to dedicate their time to serving Bloomfield residents and supporting community outreach, recruitment, and health and safety education.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported July activities, focusing on emerging environmental and community concerns. She highlighted the Climate Resilience Hub project at the Swift Factory in Hartford, a regional initiative focused on emergency preparedness, food and water distribution, and energy assistance. The Commission is exploring a fall visit and potential opportunities for Bloomfield to learn from the project.

Mrs. Jones also discussed the Commission's ongoing Extreme Heat Initiative, which focuses on public education and outreach in partnership with the Health District and EMS. Plans include updated heat and air-quality resources, as well as a potential winter educational series through the Bloomfield Public Library. She also provided an update on the upcoming *Story of Plastic* screening and panel discussion at the library.

Under new resident concerns, Mrs. Jones highlighted the rapid spread of the spotted lanternfly in Connecticut and parts of Bloomfield, particularly near Hoskins Road, noting its potential impact on trees and agricultural crops. She also raised concerns about second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poison), which can harm wildlife and birds through secondary exposure. The Commission plans to gather additional information and explore potential local actions.

Councilor Cooper asked whether the Extreme Heat Initiative was coordinating with Town facilities and resources to address cooling needs, including 330 Park and the library. Mrs. Jones explained that the working group is engaging Senior Services and plans to develop a lunch-and-learn or similar program with the Health District to expand public education and outreach. The goal is to involve as many Town departments and community partners as possible, particularly in preparation for potentially hotter conditions next year. Councilor Cooper also suggested engaging local businesses and developing ways to assist residents who are homebound or may lack the resources to adequately cool their homes.

West Hartford Bloomfield Health Updates

Councilor Cooper read the report on behalf of Ms. Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District, regarding public health initiatives, services, and upcoming events:

Vaccinations and Health Services:

- The Health District continues to provide free, anonymous, no-appointment-needed access to health and overdose-prevention resources at its 580 Cottage Grove Road location.
- Services and supplies are also being made available through community outreach efforts.

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- The Health District is partnering with the Bloomfield Police Department and Amplify on harm-reduction efforts.
- Resources are being incorporated into community health tabling events to increase access and awareness.

June Highlights and Past Events:

- Two outdoor harm-reduction cabinets were recently installed in Bloomfield, with a third location currently being explored.
- The cabinets provide 24/7 free, anonymous access to overdose-prevention and health resources.
- The Health District will monitor and restock the cabinets regularly, initially checking them at least weekly to track usage and ensure supplies remain available.

June infectious disease trends:

- No additional infectious disease trends or updates were reported during this presentation.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- A third harm-reduction cabinet location is currently being explored
- The Health District will continue monitoring usage of the cabinets and adjust supplies based on community needs, seasonal trends, and demand.
- The initiative will continue to focus on reducing barriers to health resources, including transportation, cost, stigma, and limited-service hours.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Councilor Cooper reiterated the importance of continued traffic enforcement in response to residents' concerns about speeding and truck traffic, noting that the Police Department has been conducting enforcement details and that additional equipment to help control speeding is expected to move forward.

Councilor Cooper also provided an update regarding data centers in Bloomfield, noting that the Town Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to strengthen its regulations with the goal of removing data centers as a permitted option in town. Any proposed changes would ultimately come before the Town Council. He emphasized that action is being taken both through the Public Safety Committee and the appropriate town boards to address community concerns about data centers.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested that the committee strengthen enforcement of the Town's blight ordinance by establishing a clear mechanism for issuing and collecting fines. She emphasized the need to ensure the ordinance has effective enforcement measures and asked that the issue be placed on a future agenda and requested that the Town explore affordable CPR and naloxone training opportunities for middle and high school students, potentially through partnerships or sponsorships. She emphasized the importance of equipping young people with lifesaving skills and asked that funding and program options be investigated.

Councilor Mahon supported stronger blight enforcement but emphasized the need to consider residents facing financial hardships and potentially provide assistance, fee waivers, or other flexibility when appropriate. Councilor Oliver similarly suggested exploring a subsidized DPW service to help residents safely remove hazardous items, such as refrigerator doors, rather than relying solely on fines. Councilor Cooper agreed that the Town should strengthen enforcement, prioritize serious violations, and increase public awareness of the blight ordinance while maintaining a focus on quality of life and community safety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from July 8, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cooper stated this meeting stands adjourned at 7:03 p.m.