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, October 14, 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: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire District; Captain Salvatore, Bloomfield Police Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director; Mayor Harrington (6:16 pm).

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

Absent: Councilor Todd Cooper- Chair, Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Councilor Shamar Mahon; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Police Department Update

On behalf of Chief Hammick, Captain Salvatore presented the September Police Department report. The department reported increased larcenies, including 23 shoplifting incidents (19 at Stop & Shop), five burglaries, and five auto thefts. Traffic enforcement included 69 accidents, 243 motor vehicle stops, seven DUI arrests, and 134 traffic details. No citizen complaints were received, and one use-of-force incident was reported. Staffing included six vacancies, subject to authorized strength, and one full-time dispatcher vacancy, with recruitment underway.

Community outreach continued through local events, the Tribe Young Men's Group, and K-9 Luna's community engagements. Emergency management submitted its updated Local Emergency Operations Plan for state review and approximately $11,000 in grant reimbursement. The Volunteer Ambulance placed a new ambulance into service, renewed its first responder license, and participated in community events and school activities.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd thanked Captain Salvatore for the report and acknowledged the department's continued community involvement. She congratulated officers who graduated from the academy or completed field training and expressed hope that the department would fill its vacancies, including the dispatcher position, to reduce officer holdovers and workload.

Fire Department Updates Center Fire District

Chief Barnard reported that the Center Fire Department reported 52 calls for service in September, including nine electrical malfunctions, five motor vehicle accidents, 31 false alarms, four hazardous materials incidents, two carbon monoxide calls, and one lockout. Two vehicle-pedestrian incidents resulted in fatalities. Crews also responded to a severe electrical issue at Wintonbury Mall that caused a week-long power outage.

Chief Barnard provided updates on ongoing firehouse maintenance, including repairs at Company One headquarters, HVAC work, and annual ladder testing. Community outreach included fire prevention at the JCC Swim Club and flu shots for members and their families. Training covered nozzle demonstrations, live-fire exercises, and vertical ventilation, with members also attending Swift Water and Fire Service Instructor courses. The department participated in regional water shuttle drills and held its annual Clam Bake to recognize members and their families.

Councilor Oliver asked about support available to firefighters following traumatic incidents. Chief Barnard explained that the department provides access to a fire chaplain and other support resources, with chiefs and officers checking in with responders to assess their needs.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd acknowledged Mayor Harrington's arrival and noted that she was covering for Councilor Cooper as Chair of the Public Health, Safety and Environment Subcommittee.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department responded to 47 calls in August, including a structure fire on Taft Avenue and a kitchen fire at Gillette Ridge, which was handled through a dual response with Bloomfield Center Fire. September included 37 calls, with no major incidents in the district; the department also provided mutual aid for a large, shed fire in Windsor. Training covered rescue struts, vehicle extrication, chainsaws, host deployment, forcible entry, and opioid response with local public safety partners. Community outreach included the Living Faith Church health fair, presentations at local schools and daycare, the Bloomfield Senior Expo, and the school Touch-a-Truck event. The

department also continued planning a joint 100th-anniversary celebration with Bloomfield Center Fire, including a banquet scheduled for December.

Councilor Oliver commended Blue Hills Fire for its sign-language outreach and noted that basic sign-language skills could help firefighters communicate with individuals during emergencies. Chief Jones explained that forcible-entry training teaches firefighters techniques for entering homes or businesses through doors or windows when necessary. Councilors DeBeatham-Brown and Oliver, along with Deputy Mayor Lloyd, congratulated Blue Hills and Bloomfield Center Fire on their 100th anniversary, praised the anniversary parade, and expressed appreciation for both departments' service to the community.

EMS

Mr. Louis Blumenfeld, EMS Committee Chair, reported that the new ambulance had arrived and was placed into service. He thanked the BVA Fund and community donors for funding the approximately $300,000 ambulance at no cost to the Town and recommended public recognition of their contributions. He also raised concerns about aging powered stretchers and stair chairs, recommending that equipment replacement and maintenance needs be considered in the upcoming budget.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown asked for estimated costs, particularly for immediate equipment needs, to help the Council make informed budget decisions. Mr. Blumenfeld clarified that Captain Klomberg was already working with Town personnel to develop appropriate budget requests. Deputy Mayor Lloyd supported Councilor DeBeatham-Brown's request to begin the budget process early, noting that advance planning would help departments establish priorities and improve budget preparation.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Deputy Mayor Lloyd, reporting on behalf of Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair CEEC, highlighted the committee's recent activities, including a September screening of The Story of Plastic and panel discussion attended by more than 40 participants. She noted ongoing concerns about bird feeders attracting bears and reported that CEEC would work with the Environmental Planner to gather information on bear activity, review Simsbury's wildlife-feeding ordinance, and consider potential public safety measures. Additional announcements included the Trees for Bloomfield Photo Contest, with entries accepted through October 22, and the community Shred Day and electronics recycling event scheduled for November 14 at Bloomfield High School. The next CEEC meeting was scheduled for November 12, 2026.

West Hartford Bloomfield Health Updates

Ms. Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District, provided the September update regarding public health initiatives, services, and upcoming events:

Vaccinations and Health Services:

- Continued weekly nursing services at the Bloomfield Senior Center on Tuesdays, including blood pressure and glucose screenings and medication-related discussions.
- Provided RSV, pneumonia, and flu vaccinations during the September 15 Senior Expo.
- Expanded flu vaccination outreach, with local businesses requesting on-site clinics for employees.
- Continued diabetes education workshops in person on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center, with virtual sessions available Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. by registration.

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- Continued distributing public health information at the Bloomfield Food Pantry.
- Began evening wellness screenings at local libraries on September 14 to help identify potential health concerns early.
- Continued scheduling suicide prevention training, including a recent session held at the library.

September Highlights and Past Events:

- Participated in and helped organize the September 15 Senior Expo, providing vaccinations, wellness screenings, and public health resources.
- On September 29, the Health District's health educator attended the Youth Advisory Board meeting and facilitated a youth focus group on tobacco and vaping prevention as part of a grant initiative.

Infectious disease trends:

- No additional infectious disease trends or updates were reported during this presentation, noting that the community was entering flu and COVID season and that flu clinics were underway.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- **October 14:** Evening wellness screenings at the library until 7:00 p.m.
- **October 24, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.:** Health and wellness fair at Bethel AME Church, featuring flu vaccinations and educational materials

- **October 27:** Youth tobacco and vaping prevention activities with two youth groups at the Bloomfield Community Center.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd asked about promotional materials for the Bethel AME Church health fair. Ms. Krauss explained that the church was responsible for promotion but said the Health District would consider sharing the event. Mayor Harrington offered to coordinate with the Director of Communications to improve public awareness of community events.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Mayor Harrington raised residents' concerns about traffic accidents, hit-and-runs, pedestrian injuries, and recent fatalities, asking what data is available and what actions were being taken to address traffic safety? He cited speeding concerns near Brown Street suggesting that a speed-monitoring sign be placed closer to the turn from Mountain Road.

Captain Salvatore explained that several serious accidents remain under investigation, so complete statistics and contributing factors were not yet available. He confirmed that traffic enforcement continues in affected areas and that the Police Department is collecting data near Joyce and Ellsworth to identify peak times for violations and target enforcement accordingly. Captain Salvatore agreed to provide additional accident and fatality statistics when available.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd noted that the Forest, Daniel Boulevard, Joyce, and Ellsworth areas need additional traffic enforcement due to heavy traffic and residents' safety concerns. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown raised concerns about the increasing number of unhoused individuals in Bloomfield as cold weather approaches and encouraged the Council to explore possible support options, noting that the Town does not have a shelter. Deputy Mayor Lloyd agreed that the issue warrants further discussion and noted that businesses near the Police Department have also raised concerns, emphasizing the need for a collaborative response involving the town Social Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes for August 12, 2026, will be made at the next meeting held on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. due to no quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Lloyd stated this meeting stands adjourned at 6:51 p.m.