

Police Funding

Background

- Where we are as a City
- Define the Issue
 - Millage Renewal
 - Long-term Funding
- Plot a Course
 - Short Term – This Year
 - Longer Term – Next Year(s)
- Implementing the Plan

Police Funding – Background

- Rochester Hills Charter does not include a dedicated millage for Police
 - Rely on voted millage of 20 year maximum
 - Changing Charter would require a Commission
- Voters have the Power
 - Approve millage requests when need is demonstrated
 - Reject millages if they don't see the need
 - Consistently told us: Here's some money; spend for more Police out of the general fund!

Police Funding – Contract with OCSD

- Rochester Hills has a very effective and efficient system for police protection
 - Rochester Hills has relied on OCSD for Police protection for 3 decades
 - We benefit greatly from the partnership with OCSD
 - Advantages of the larger system without the burdens
- Rochester Hills should not change the basic system

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Police II Millage (0.426) – Ends this year
- Police I Millage (0.782) – Expires in 6 years
- General Fund transfer – determined each year
- Police funding issues are many-fold
 - Short-term – Should we renew Police II millage?
 - Can we maintain or must we expand service?
 - Longer-term – How do we provide for more stable form of funding?
 - 6-years – Prepare for renewal of Police I depending on success of more stable source
 - Should we consider Charter Revision Commission?

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Short-term
 - Favor renew Police II Millage at 0.462 for 10 years at November general election
 - Consider re-instate Police II Millage at 0.5 for 10 years at November general election
 - Against using September primary election
 - Suggest an education and advocacy initiative

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Maintaining or expanding service?
- Open question
 - Rochester Hill is fundamentally a very safe community
 - The corresponding contract Police Model has fewer officers for the same population
 - Population is stabilizing and aging
 - Mixed impact of economic downturn
 - Innovative policing may require fewer officers
 - False Alarm Ordinance

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Longer-term – How do we provide for more stable form of funding?
 - Should we?
 - System we have clearly works so far
 - General fund transfers are at the discretion of City Council
- More stable Police funding
 - Less from General Fund – More from dedicated millages
 - Does not mean more money overall
- This too is an open question

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Longer-term – How do we prepare for the renewal of Police II in 6 years?
 - Cannot predict – but it will not go away
 - Assume we face the same skepticism as now
- Prepare
 - Lay the groundwork until then to have an electorate that understands the need to maintain the funding

Police Funding – Define the Issue

- Step-by-step changes to Charter are just too subject to changes in City Council
- Should we consider a change to the City Charter?
 - To make a significant difference it needs to be a significant change
 - To make a significant change requires a Charter Revision
 - A Charter Revision requires a Charter Commission (box of chocolates problem)

Police Funding – Plot a Course

- Now
 - Agree on renewal of Police II at 0.426 at this November election – put it on the ballot
- This Year
 - Establish Police Funding as major topic in November City election
- Next Year
 - Develop a proposal for a Police III millage for the November 2008 election based on what will pass

Police Funding - Implementation

- The biggest problem is that City cannot advocate for millages
 - Once on the ballot - we can only inform voters
 - A big recent success was the Open Space Millage because they had advocates
- Face up to it and establish a legitimate Political Action Committee, raise funds, advocate for Police Funding proposals

Police Funding - Implementation

- Establish a Police Funding Technical Committee of Council (soon)
 - Analyze the service needs (prove me wrong)
 - Develop and flesh-out the long-term strategy
 - Analyze the results of next election to determine whether Police III and how much
- Establish a Political Action Committee to advocate for police funding
 - Renewal of Police II this year
 - Candidate's position on Stable Police Funding
 - If Police III is proposed next year