



Rochester Hills Minutes Public Safety Committee

1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4660
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

Jim Duistermars, Louis Eble, Gregory Formanczyk, Victoria Gates, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Andrew Roscoe, Bob Smith, Gregory Walterhouse

Monday, March 15, 2004

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duistermars called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gregory Formanczyk

Non-Voting Members Present: Smith, Walterhouse, Gates and Roscoe

Non-Voting Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sergeant Tony Spencer, OCSD

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2004-0261 Regular Meeting - February 2, 2004

Attachments: Draft Minutes.pdf

A motion was made by Formanczyk, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Approved.

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2004 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gregory Formanczyk

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee discussed an article from the Oakland Press, dated February 5, 2004, "Narcotics cash aids law work". The article referenced how county law enforcement departments benefit from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office economic recovery unit that targets drug dealers and their ill-gotten gains.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0031 Discuss Fire Department's Five-Year Plan

The Committee discussed this topic under file 2004-0260.

Discussed

2004-0032 Adoption of resolution requesting Mayor to allow the OCSD Rochester Hills Sub Station Commander to continue working on False Alarm Program.

Attachments: Agenda Summary.pdf; 020204 False Alarm info.pdf; PS Minutes Reg 020204.pdf; 2004-0032 Master Report.pdf; 040204 Smith Capt R.pdf

A motion was made by Robbins, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Approved.

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee request the Mayor to allow the OCSD Rochester Hills Sub Station Commander the ability to continue to investigate and research the False Alarm Program in order to provide the necessary information for the City Council Work Session of March 31, 2004.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gregory Formanczyk

2004-0033 Discuss Emergency Hotline

The Committee did not discuss this topic.

Postponed

2004-0153 Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) Grant Program

Attachments: Agenda Summary.pdf; PS Minutes Reg 011204.pdf; 2004-0153 Master Report.pdf

The Committee briefly discussed the presentation for the False Alarm Program and the NET Grant Program scheduled for the City Council Work Session on March 31, 2004. The consensus was to invite Deputy Clark to present Troy's False Alarm Program and Lt. Joe Quisenberry to present OCSD's NET Program.

The Committee also discussed an article from the Oakland Press regarding false alarms in Phoenix, AZ. Phoenix requires a permit for having an alarm in a home or business after costs escalated to \$4 million per year because sixty percent (60%) of false alarms involved human error.

A motion was made by Robbins, seconded by Eble, that this matter be Approved.

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee requests the City Clerk to invite Lt. Joe Quisenberry, Command Officer of OCSD's NET Program, to attend a City Council Work Session on March 31, 2004, for the purpose of presenting information regarding the NET Program;

Further Resolved, that the Clerk is requested to include the minutes that reflected the Public Comments made by Andrew Roscoe, Youth Representative for the Public Safety Committee, at a recent City Council Meeting;

Further Resolved, that the Clerk is requested to invite all members of the Public Safety Committee to the March 31, 2004 City Council Work Session.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gregory Formanczyk

NEW BUSINESS

2004-0260

Discuss and Evaluate Information Request to Fire Department

Attachments: Request 021504.pdf

The Committee discussed the information request from Mr. Robbins, dated February 15, 2004 and the information provided by Chief Walterhouse dated February 24, 2004 (see the attachment to file 2004-0260. The discussion included the following:

1. *The station captains make medical team member assignments. Members must respond to calls or disciplinary action is taken. Coverage varies by station but it is basically a twelve (12) hour period, seven (7) days a week.*

2a., b. *The definitions for the abbreviations are as follows:*

- * *E - engine*
- * *T - arial truck*
- * *R - heavy rescue*
- * *S - squad*
- * *U - utility*
- * *Bravo Unit - ambulance*
- * *BLS - basic life support*
- * *ALS - advance life support (can begin intravenous drugs if necessary)*

3a. *The five requests to Auburn Hills, which fall under mutual aid, were because the Rochester Hills paramedics were on ALS calls somewhere else in the city. Rochester Hills receives a high percentage of multiple calls back-to-back which tax the system. The transporting agent has to bill the resident by law.*

3b., c., d. *- Oakland Township will be able to provide ALS assistance by November, 2004. Shelby Township is called upon if it pertains to the east side of Rochester Hills.*

4. *Typically if equipment remains unattended on the scene of an incident, which is not that often, it is due to an ALS call for a cardiac arrest. It usually takes three (3) to four (4) paramedics to travel in the ambulance when a cardiac arrest is involved. But the average scenario is one (1) paramedic per ambulance run.*

A fire engine follows an ambulance to the hospital on an ALS call to allow the paramedic to travel in the ambulance with the patient. Then, they transfer the drug box back to the fire engine, complete the report and place the fire engine back into service immediately.

5. *Council adopted a resolution along with the Fire Department Five Year Plan that formed a response requirement policy to have an ambulance on the scene in less than eight (8) minutes. The Fire Department's average ALS response time is eight (8) minutes, which is exceeded the majority of the time, and within the Oakland County Medical Control protocols. However, the daytime calls pose more of a challenge than the nighttime calls because the Fire Department has only eight (8) paid-on-call fire firefighters for the day shift.*

To reduce the average ALS response time to four (4) to six (6) minutes would require approximately \$4 to \$5 million dollars for 60-70 full-time fire fighters. During prior budget talks, it was determined that the Vehicle Fleet Capital Fund could be used for other purposes than capital purchases. However, if that fund was used to hire additional fire fighters, it would not only deplete the fund balance for fleet maintenance costs, but continual funding for salaries would still be needed and the current fire millage is almost maximized.

In addition, a typical salary for a firefighter is approximately \$60,000 per year versus a basic EMT salary of approximately \$30,000 per year. Also, for an ALS cardiac arrest call, it is not uncommon to be on the scene for 10 to 15 minutes to get the patient

stabilized before going to the hospital.

Using a full-time fire fighter to pull an ambulance during the day time hours when the Fire Department is short staffed rather than a paid-on-call employee guarantees that the Fire Department will be able to handle whatever type of calls are received. Typically, over fifty percent (50%) of the calls received are BLS calls which do not necessitate paying an employee \$60,000 per year to do a \$30,000 per year job.

The Fire Department's Emergency Medical Dispatch determines if a call is a BLS or an ALS status.

Currently, the Oakland County Medical Control Board requires two (2) paramedics to run an ambulance in Rochester Hills. Chief Walterhouse will be meeting with the Oakland County Medical Control Board to suggest they change the requirement to one (1) paramedic which would help alleviate staffing issues for the Fire Department.

The Fire Department has separated the paid-on-call employees into two groups; those qualified to handle emergency medical calls and those that are qualified to fight fires as well as handle emergency medical calls. The second paid-on-call group is paid slightly more per hour due to more training and development.

The Committee discussed the benefits and liabilities of using all full-time staff versus using full-time staff along with paid-on-call staff.

The decision regarding new city employees not being able to also be paid-on-call employees was made by the Human Resources Department and the Accounting Division due to the Fair Labor Standards Act and the manner in which their paid-on-call hourly rate has to be calculated. Also, there is an issue between the Firefighters union and the AFSME union. The decisions also prevent employees from being interested in serving as paid-on-call employees. The consensus of the Committee was to have the Human Resource Director and the City Accountant attend a future Public Safety Committee meeting to present the reasons for these decisions.

In order to staff Fire Stations 1, 2 and 4, who are the busiest, with 24 hour coverage, 7 days a week, it would require approximately 12 to 16 full time fire fighters.

The Committee discussed Council Members receiving alpha pages for all Fire Department calls noting it was the Mayor's decision not to provide that information.

The Committee also discussed the following:

** The job of the Public Safety Committee including the youth representatives, is to make the public aware of funding needs for fire fighting, emergency medical responses and police protection.*

** While new development is good for the tax base in the community, it does cause an increase in calls to the Fire Department and consideration should be given to directing some of those new tax dollars to the Fire Department.*

** The current Charter calls for funding Public Safety at a rate of 18,000 residents. The City now has approximately 70,000 residents. Therefore, additional funding is needed.*

** Fire inspectors were trained to drive an ambulance only for emergency situations (i.e., the Ice Storm of April 2003 and the Black Out of August 2003) in order to provide addition man power that was needed. Inspectors will continue to perform inspection jobs on a daily basis.*

** The Committee suggested that the Fire Department provide City Council members with monthly call volume statistics which include the type of fire or medical call that was received and the equipment used on each call.*

* The current lighted signs that identify each Fire Station also provide a necessary community service incase someone is in need of assistance. The consensus was that the current signs should be maintained and not replaced with signs that do not illuminate.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bike Path and Street Stop Signs

The Committee discussed the location of stop signs for bike paths and street crossings. The stop signs should be located on the bike path before the street crossing. Ms. Raschke, a member of the Advisory Traffic & Safety Board (ATSB), will discuss this concern at the next ATSB meeting.

No Turn on Red Signs

The Committee discussed the "No Turn on Red" signs at M-59 and Crooks Road exit and M-59 and Rochester Road exit where residents have reported vehicles turning on red. It was suggested that Capt. Smith investigate the reports.

Liquor Establishment Sting Operations

Capt. Smith reported the recent sting operations were very successful regarding compliance.

2004-0299

OCSD Patrol Sergeant Position for 2005 Budget - Request to Administration

A motion was made by Formanczyk, seconded by Robbins, that this matter be Approved.

Whereas, it has been brought to the attention of the Public Safety Committee that there is no current supervisor coverage between the hours of 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM;

Whereas, the initially accepted standards are to provide a supervisor for every five (5) to seven (7) employees on duty;

Whereas, in light of the potential liability that may occur to the City in the event the provision is not obtainable during this period of time;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that it is the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee that the Administration include in the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget the position of Patrol Sergeant for OCSD Rochester Hills Sub Station Cost Center.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Jim Duistermars, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gregory Formanczyk

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 5, 2004 - 7:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM

Note:

Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the Clerk's Office at 248-841-2460 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.