



Rochester Hills Minutes Public Safety Committee

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

Monday, June 7, 2004

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Gerald Robbins

Non-Voting Members Present: Greg Walterhouse and Victoria Gates

Non-Voting Members Absent: Robert Smith and Andrew Roscoe

Non-Voting Members Smith and Roscoe provided previous notice that they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

Others Present: Pamela S. Lee, Director, Human Resources

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2004-0500

Regular Meeting - March 15, 2004

Attachments: 031504 PS Draft Minutes.pdf

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

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2004 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Eble and Formanczyk

Absent: Robbins

2004-0509

Regular Meeting - April 12, 2004

Attachments: 041204 PS Draft Minutes.pdf

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

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2004 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Eble and Formanczyk

Absent: Robbins

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Duistermars regretfully informed the Committee of Ashleigh Iserman's passing on Saturday, June 5, 2004. Ms. Iserman served as a Youth Representative on the Leisure Activities Committee. Her efforts were invaluable and she will be deeply missed. The Clerk's Office has informed the City Council members as well as the Administration.

Ms. Gates commented that Ms. Iserman was a very enthusiastic student and enjoyed discussing politics. The visitation is on Tuesday, June 8, from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Pixley Funeral Home and the Funeral will be held on Wednesday at 1:00 PM.

Ms. Raschke provided the Committee with copies of an Oakland Press news article regarding the Royal Oak Firefighters petitioning their staff levels to be tied to their city population instead of city finances for citizen safety. They are proposing 1.17 firefighters for every 1,000 residents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0373

Request to rescind Resolution regarding Local Medical Control Board - Resolution of Support adopted at the April 12, 2004 Regular Public Safety Meeting

Attachments: LMCB Resolution of Support.pdf

Ms. Raschke expressed her desire to rescind the Resolution of Support due to the following concerns:

** The current Oakland County protocol for Advance Life Support (ALS) calls is 1,000 residents in one (1) square mile*

** The Committee should research what other communities are doing*

** Rochester Hills is too large to go with one paramedic for an ALS call*

** The Rochester Hills Fire Department is understaffed during the daytime*

** Station 5 does not have an ambulance and has to use staff from Station 1*

** Ms. Raschke reported hearing calls on her scanner with no response from fire stations. Chief Waltherhouse reported that does not happen.*

The Committee held further discussion regarding the Resolution of Support, which included the following:

** The Resolution of Support is not reducing staff, but occasionally rather than shutting down one (1) unit due to short staffing during the day, the Fire Department will be able to run three (3) units during the day.*

** Troy's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is run by a private provider. The initial response is one (1) Medical First Responder (MFR) who then waits for an ambulance to arrive. The ambulance has two (2) people on it.*

** Oakland County is the only county in Michigan that requires two (2) paramedics and there*

- * *The San Francisco Fire Department study demonstrates that a city can provide better service with one (1) paramedic and has had no negative patient outcome.*
- * *Station 1 is the only station with full time firefighters on the day shift and the average response time to a fire is between 4.5 and 4.75 minutes.*
- * *It would take approximately twelve (12) full time firefighters to staff the City's northern and southern fire stations, however, there is no funding.*
- * *There are approximately eight (8) to ten (10) paid-on-call (POC) firefighters for the day shift and 80 to 90 POCs for the afternoon and night shifts.*
- * *There are five (5) to six (6) full time firefighters and six (6) to eight (8) administrative staff on the day shift that can respond to fires.*
- * *Being able to run a third unit with one (1) paramedic during the day has no bearing on responses to fires.*
- * *The consequences for staffing the City's north and south fire stations with full time firefighters are:*
 - *losing the POCs at those stations*
 - *annual payroll of over \$3 million*
 - *poor treatment of the POC firefighters by the full time firefighters*

The Committee discussed the poor treatment of the POC firefighters by some of the full time firefighters. The Chief and his assistant spend approximately 60% of their time disciplining the offenders. Full time firefighters do not want work with POCs or volunteers due to union issues.

The Committee agreed that it is a universal problem with police and fire unions.

A motion to rescind the Resolution of Support was made by Ms. Raschke and died for a lack of support.

Discussed

The Committee recessed from 8:16 PM to 8:29 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

2004-0505

Communication from Thomas L. Boyer, Labor Attorney, regarding Full-Time City Employees and Paid-On-Call Fire Fighters

Attachments: Memo.pdf; 122203 Admin Policy on POCs.pdf; KKUE 070604 Full-Time City Emps & POC FF.pdf

Pam Lee, Director of Human Resources, explained the December 2003 Administrative Policy on POC Firefighters and the POC Blended Rate Calculation Example which including the following:

- * *The policy was developed, in part, from contract negotiations with Bargaining Unit 3472, the Full Time Firefighters Union. There are three (3) full time firefighters that are "grand fathered out" from the policy through 2004.*
- * *The Fair Labors Standards Act contains certain stipulations regarding how an organization must pay overtime based on:*

- a blended rate of the regular hourly rate and the POC hourly rate, or
 - whichever position's hourly rate they are functioning in when they reach an excess of 40 hours, which is a very complicated method to track and calculate
- * Eight (8) full time city employees who are also POC fire fighters are paid using a blended rate. The Accounting Division has to recalculate their POC hourly rate every two (2) weeks depending on the number of hours they have worked and where they have worked those hours.

Chief Walterhouse also commented that four (4) years ago, when the full time firefighters' contract was negotiated, their overtime as POCs was \$125,000 per year. The entire POC payroll is just under \$300,000 annually.

The consensus of the Committee was that the Policy makes financial sense and avoids "conflict of interest" when employed by the City. The Committee thanked Ms. Lee for her information.

Discussed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bike Path and Street Stop Signs

The Committee discussed the location of the stop signs for bike paths and street crossings. It was suggested that a committee of students could stencil the word "Stop" on the bike path pavement before the street crossing. This would be must less costly than new signs.

Youth Representatives

Ms. Gates announced that this might be the last Public Safety Committee Meeting she will attend before going to college in the fall. She thanked the Committee for the opportunity and has enjoyed learning more about government.

The Committee thanked Ms. Gates for her contributions and wished her well at college.

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 2, 2004 - 7:30 PM. There is no Regular Public Safety Meeting scheduled for July due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.

Note:

Minutes were approved as presented at the xxx, 2004 Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting.