



Rochester Hills Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Adam Alleman, Jim Duistermars, Louis Eble, Gregory Formanczyk, Andy LeBlanc, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Andrew Roscoe, Bob Smith, Gregory Walterhouse

Monday, September 13, 2004

6:00 PM

CHANGED TO 1111 HORIZON CT - 6:00 PM

Special Meeting

Meeting location and time changed to conduct a tour of the Public Safety Complex at
1111 Horizon Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48307

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duistermars called the special meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Louis Eble

Non-Voting Members Present: Robert Smith, Greg Walterhouse, Adam Alleman, Andy LeBlanc and Andrew Roscoe

Non-Voting Members Absent: None

Others Present: Lee Zendel, Citizen Representative, Financial Services Committee

Ron Crowell, Assistant Fire Chief

Lee Mayes, Firefighter/Paramedic/Union President

Rich Welch, Firefighter/Paramedic

Committee Member Eble provided previous notice he would arrive late.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2004-0708 Regular Meeting - July 26, 2004

Attachments: DRAFT Minutes.pdf; Resolution.pdf

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

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 26, 2004 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Robbins and Formanczyk

Absent: Eble

COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome Youth Representatives

Chairperson Duistermars welcomed the 2004-2005 Youth Representatives to the Public Safety Committee. He also mentioned that beginning in October, the committee agendas will have an additional header called "Youth Comments" that will provide an opportunity for the Youth Representatives to speak about topics which they feel are important.

(The Committee recessed from 6:10 PM to 6:38 PM)

The Committee toured the Public Safety Complex during their recess from 6:10 PM to 6:38 PM. The Public Safety Complex no longer houses the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Substation for Rochester Hills which has now relocated to a new facility at 750 Barclay Circle in Rochester Hills.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(Mr. Eble entered at 6:38 PM)

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

2004-0033

Discuss Emergency Hotline Service

Chairperson Duistermars presented a brief recap regarding the concern that residents did not have a resource from which to obtain local information regarding the massive power failure in August 2003 and its impact on the community.

During the August City Council Budget Work Sessions, it was suggested to implement an AM band radio station transmitting system where a local driver could hear emergency news that may be happening in the City. The Committee discussed the following points:

- * The frequency repeaters would have a four (4) day battery "back up" system.*
- * The projected cost is \$30,000.00 to cover the Rochester Hills area which includes signs installed at selected points in the City displaying the AM radio station number. The signs will flash when there is emergency information that residents should hear.*
- * There will not be a charge for the FCC license and there is an annual review of the license. The licensing services will be provide by the company that installs the transmitting system.*
- * Once the system is installed, there will be newspaper articles, flyers, and information on Channel 55, the City Web Page, etc. to educate the residents on how to use the AM radio station. There will also be coordinated efforts between the Rochester Hills Fire Department and the Oakland County Sheriff's Substation in Rochester Hills to educate the residents.*
- * In addition to emergency information, there will be other City information regarding parades and festivals, etc. that will be broadcasted on the AM radio station with the intent of getting the residents accustomed to using it for local information.*

Discussed

2004-0642

Administration Request regarding EMS staff requirements at special businesses that involve intensive physical activities

In response to the administration request from the July 26, 2004 meeting where the Committee discussed a fatality at the Life Time Fitness Center, Chief Walterhouse stated that there is no law that he is aware of that requires special businesses like Life Time Fitness to employ Emergency Medical staff on site. However, any facility that has a license for professional trainers, etc. are required to train them in CPR, AED and first aid.

The Committee also discussed the following:

- * There is no requirement for people to leave a building once a fire alarm is activated. However, the Fire Department or the Sheriff's Department can order an evacuation. If people do not leave, they can be ticketed.*
- * Certain facilities such as schools, nursing homes, hospitals, hotels, etc. are required to post an escape route.*
- * Senior centers and nursing homes are unique facilities where people should not be required to leave the building during fire alarm because they are elderly and/or frail. It is preferred that they be directed to a lower level floor, if possible.*

The Committee encouraged the Youth Representatives to inquire at their high schools as to what the current protocol is when dealing with a medical emergency. They should first dial 9-1-1.

Closed

NEW BUSINESS

2004-0372

Administration Request - OCS D Contract Negotiations

Capt. Smith gave a brief overview of how the negotiation process works that included the following:

- * Contracts were previously for one (1) or two (2) years; now they are five (5) year contracts.*
- * Each of the twelve (12) different communities send their representative to the Oakland County Executive's office to form a coalition to obtain better pricing.*
- * The Rochester Hills representative can be administration official or a council official.*
- * The Oakland County Executive presents a contract that is approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.*
- * The current OCS D contract was recently approved and will not expire for approximately five (5) years.*

The Committee discussed having the opportunity to review the future OCS D contract whereby they could make a recommendation before it was presented to City Council for approval. The Committee also discussed having a joint meeting with the Financial Services Committee to discuss the contract before it is presented to City Council because it is a major part of the budget .

Closed

2004-0761

Discuss Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Hiring

Attachments: Duistermars Memo dtd 10-15-04 to CC.pdf; Draft 2005 Fire Dept Budget.pdf; Fiscal Team Memo dtd 9-03-04 - Budget Issues.pdf; Fiscal Team Memo dtd 9-20-04 - FTFF Salary & Benefits.pdf; Fiscal Team OT Pay Reports dtd 9-22-04 re FTFF OT 2003 to Sept. 2004.pd

Committee members expressed their belief that because it only costs approximately \$5,000 more to hire a paramedic than an emergency medical technician (EMT), that paramedics should be hired rather than EMTs. Furthermore, they concluded that it would be most preferable to hire full-time firefighter/paramedics.

Fire Chief Greg Walterhouse noted the following reasons that this would not be preferable:

** The cost for full-time paramedic/firefighters including salary and benefits is approximately \$115,000 annually. The cost for EMTs is approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000.*

** The union would take issue with this practice and it could be interpreted as a violation of the labor contract, as full-time firefighter/paramedics handle life threatening emergency medical calls. Paid-On-Call (POC) EMTs, require less training than paramedics and deal with non-emergency medical calls.*

** It is a less efficient use of manpower to have fully trained paramedics responding to non-emergency medical calls that are better suited for response by EMTs.*

Committee members stressed their belief that full-time firefighter/paramedics, despite the substantial increase in cost, provide a greater level of service to City residents.

Concern was also expressed that the Fire Department does not have enough full-time personnel and firefighters; both full-time and POCs run a high risk of job burnout.

As a result of these concerns, the Committee made a motion to recommend to City Council the hiring of no less than two (2) full-time firefighter/paramedics and two (2) EMTs.

A motion was made by Eble, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Approved and Referred to the City Council.

Whereas, the City of Rochester Hills seeks to maintain the current millage levels;

Whereas, the Public Safety Committee recognizes that the Fire Department has taken it upon itself to develop its own revenue sources, such as the EMT Services, in addition to the millage;

Whereas, the Public Safety Committee recognizes that any new position should be sustained over the years;

Whereas, the Public Safety Committee recognizes that the City of Rochester Hills has approximately 70,000 residents and the importance of maintaining its level of service for these residents;

Now therefore be it resolved, that it is the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee that City Council consider hiring two (2) full-time 24/7 Firefighter/paramedics and two (2) exclusive Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Be it further resolved, that the Public Safety Committee requests City Council obtain an opinion from the City's labor attorney regarding this issue to prepare Administration for contract negotiations.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Robbins and Eble

Nay: Formanczyk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2004-0786 Request for Incident Pager Service

The Committee discussed a suggestion made by Ms. Raschke to have the Fire Department Incident Pager Service being made available to all Council Members so they have an idea of the call volume going out.

A motion was made by Raschke, seconded by Robbins, that this matter be Approved and Referred to the City Council.

Resolved, that the Public Safety Committee requests that the Incident Pager Service be made available to all Council members who choose to have it.

Be it further resolved, that the nominal expense of the Incident Pager System be charged to the City Council cost area of the General Fund.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke, Robbins, Eble and Formanczyk

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 4, 2004 - 7:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Minutes prepared by Margaret Strate and Denise Mertz.

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