

**Minutes of the Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting** held at the Rochester Hills Public Safety Building, 1111 Horizon Court, Rochester Hills, Michigan, on Monday, September 8, 2003 at 7:30 PM.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Duistermars called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Members Present:	Jim Duistermars, Lois Golden (entered 7:47 PM), Gerald Robbins
Council Members Absent:	None
Citizen Representatives Present:	Louis Eble, Gregory Formanczyk
Citizen Representatives Absent:	None

**QUORUM PRESENT**

Administration Members Present:	Chief Greg Walterhouse, Capt. Robert Smith
Administration Members Absent:	None
Youth Representatives Present:	Victoria Gates, Andrew Roscoe
Youth Representatives Absent:	None
Others Present:	None

**3. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

A quorum was present.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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**Resolution**

**Motion** by Eble, seconded by Formanczyk

**Resolved**, that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2003, with the following amendments:

**Remove:** *Agenda Item 8d - Discuss modification to false alarm ordinance*

**Add:** *Agenda Item 9a - Discussion of City Council's approval of Police Millage Ballot Language*

**Add:** *Agenda Item 9b - Public Safety Committee's involvement of Police Millage Ballot Question*

Ayes: Duistermars, Eble, Formanczyk, Robbins  
Nays: None  
Absent: Golden

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. & b. Regular Meeting - May 5 and August 4, 2003:**

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**Resolution**

**Motion** by Eble, seconded by Formanczyk,

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Public Safety Committee held on May 5 and August 4, 2003, be approved as presented.

Ayes: Duistermars, Eble, Formanczyk, Robbins  
Nays: None  
Absent: Golden

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

None presented.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (UNFINISHED OR PENDING MATTERS)**

None presented.

**8. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**a. Welcome youth representatives:**

Chairperson Duistermars welcomed the youth representatives and made the introductions for the committee. The youth representatives gave a brief background about why they wanted to serve on the committee.

(Entered Lois Golden 7:47 PM)

**b. Joint meeting with Financial Services, September 18, 2003 regarding impact of pricing model of new OCSO contract:**

Chairperson Duistermars inquired as to the availability of members to attend a joint meeting on September 18, 2003 at 7:00 PM. The majority responded positively.

**c. Discuss emergency hotline:**

Approved as presented at the xxxx Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting.

**DRAFT**

Chairperson Duistermars opened the discussion regarding Blackout 2003 which knocked out Channel 55, the City’s website and phones. The following items were mentioned regarding an emergency hotline:

- SBC/Ameritech had a failure in their circuitry that powers the City, with the exception of dialing 911.
- WJR is an emergency broadcast radio station that provides up-to-date emergency information.
- Fire Department is in the process of developing a “recorded message” emergency hotline for severe weather, blackouts, lack of City water, lack of power in the City, etc. with brief information and changes as they are received. It will handle twelve (12) calls at a time and be managed by the Fire Department.
- The City should promote to residents how they can contact departments, such as DPS, for needed assistance before and after work hours for city-related issues.
- OCSD is engaged in an ongoing “emergency preparedness” mission.

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**Resolution**

**Motion** by Golden, seconded by Robbins,

**Resolved** that the following request made by the City Council Public Safety Committee of the Administration is to further promote the City’s after hours information number, 248.656.4685, that already exists and to educate residents regarding its proper use.

**Be It Further Resolved** that Chief Walterhouse continue with the hotline initiative and report back to the Public Safety Committee when appropriate.

Ayes: Duistermars, Eble, Formanczyk, Golden, Robbins  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**d. Discuss modification of false alarm ordinance:**

This item was removed from the agenda because Mr. Dan Clark, retired Police Officer from Troy, was not able to attend due to a family emergency. He will be invited to attend the October meeting.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following items were added to the agenda:

**a. Discussion of City Council’s approval of Police Millage Ballot Language**

**b. Public Safety Committee’s involvement of Police Millage Ballot Question**

Chairman Duistermars read the following motion from the City Council’s Regular Meeting of September 3, 2003:

**Resolution A0706-2003-R0314**

**MOTION** by Robbins, seconded by Holder,

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby places the following proposal on the November 4, 2003 City Council Election:

“Shall the City of Rochester Hills levy and collect annually for four (4) years commencing Fiscal 2004, an additional tax not exceeding 0.30 of 1 mil providing revenues for additional Oakland County Sheriff Deputies. Estimated revenue from 0.30 of 1 mil would be approximately \$919,459.00 in the first year.”

Ayes: Holder, Duistermars, Golden, Robbins  
Nays: Barnett, Hill, Dalton  
Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ms. Golden recapped some of the history associated with the above resolution.

Discussion commenced regarding the Police Millage and included the following:

- City Council pledged after the renewal they would look at the Police Millage again.
- Proponents of the City Manager issue may not want to see a ballot question because it may generate more voters that could jeopardize their cause.
- Feedback from the “No New Taxes” group is that they will not fight the ballot questions because it is a small amount.
- The millage is worded as such that it does not matter if Mr. Spaman thinks it is enough money or not; it allows the City to hire as many police officers as it wants over the next four years.
- The purpose of the resolution was to raise funds.
- If the City does not get the last officer in the last year, the City will still have more officers.
- The money for one-half an officer in the last year, could be used to match a Cops Grant to facilitate the last officer.
- Public Safety Committee previously made a recommendation to Council that we need one to two more officers, but it was not presented to City Council. Had that been done, discussions would have been ongoing for eight to nine months.
- For .3 mills, which is about \$36.00 per year per household, would increase the number of officers in the City by two (2).
- Funds can be used to match other programs to greatly increase the number of officers.

Approved as presented at the xxxx Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting.

**DRAFT**

Discussion commenced regarding the Public Safety Committee's involvement in promoting the Police Millage and included the following:

- Need to be sure that Council stays objective, not promoting one side or the other.
- The Public Safety Committee passed a resolution supporting Police Millage II.
- The Public Safety Committee can pass a resolution this time to support the ballot.
- Consensus was not to form an Ad-Hoc Committee as in the past.
- Need to look at the successes of other communities:
  - Provide simple language
  - Provide accurate information
  - Let the people decide
- Request the administration prepare simple information to be provided to the voters.
- Encourage private citizens support by encouraging them to write letters of support to local newspapers.
- Encourage Oakland County Sheriff Deputies who live within the City limits to write letters to editor in support of the millage; however need to be careful so it does not appear self-serving.
- Contact residents who have worked on other police millages to see if they can help with promoting the millage.
- Contact the press regarding the issue to refute incorrect information.

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**Resolution**

**MOTION** by Golden, seconded by Robbins,

**Resolved** that the Public Safety Committee hereby supports placing the Police Millage Ballot question on the November 4, 2003 City General Election Ballot;

***Be It Further Resolved*** that the Public Safety Committee requests the Administration to prepare simple, clear information only materials regarding the Police ballot language for distribution to the residents of Rochester Hills, including, but not limited to, amount of millage, costs, and impact on residents; and

***Be It Finally Resolved*** that the Administration use the following media venues to provide the information to the residents:

Special Channel 55  
City Web Page  
Flyer for possible insertion in water bills  
Placement of the Flyers at key areas such as the Kiosk, Library, etc.

Ayes: Duistermars, Eble, Formanczyk, Golden, Robbins  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**  
**DRAFT**

**9c. Discuss the Fire Millage Modifications from the Budget Sessions:**

Chairperson Duistermars reviewed the budget process.

Discussion commenced regarding the Fire Millage Modification as follows:

- There was discussion at the Council meeting regarding the Fire Fund Budget, specifically the Apparatus Fund which contains funds to cover fire equipment.
- The Fire Chief maintains funds in the Apparatus Fund so when apparatus needs replacement expenses arise they do not have a large impact on his budget.
- Anything over twenty percent (20%) of the Fire Fund fund balance is put in the Apparatus Fund pursuant to Administrative Policy.
- There is no adopted resolution of Council or auditing rule that requires the placement of these funds in the Apparatus Fund.
- Council Members are looking at reducing the Fire Fund Millage by one-tenth (.1) of a mill.
- Recommendations come from the auditors regarding the amount that should be maintained in the Funds to cover unanticipated emergencies.
- There are no auditing rules that say these funds cannot be put elsewhere in the Fire Budget where the money can be better utilized.
- EMS program generates revenue that can be used only within the Fire Department budget
- 0.1 mill equals approximately \$300,000.00.
- The Fire Chief did not have any extra money but rather an Administrative Policy required him, to put the money in the Apparatus Fund. He was not allowed to use the money in areas that were needed, and that money should have been reallocated by the Administration to areas where it could have been used.

Chief Walterhouse noted the following:

- At the request of Council Member Barnett, the Fire Chief is preparing a report on the inadequate staffing within the Fire Department.
  - Fire Prevention Bureau has suffered greatly over the past years as a result of upgrading the suppression end of the Fire Department
  - The Fire Department could use another public education person
  - There is a need to look at options for fire/rescue staffing, particularly in the daytime hours
  - Jaws of Life need to be replace due to age
- Council was told two years ago, during goal setting sessions, that the Fire Department was short on prevention staff.
- The budget has been cut at the request of Mayor Somerville;
  - Operating expenses were cut to cover fire fighter salaries and costs
  - Fire fighter salaries have escalated due to fire fighters reaching the top of their pay scales
  - Request was honored not to add staff this year

Capt. Smith noted that police and fire services work as a team at a lot of events in the City. Therefore, shortage in police staff is compounded by shortage in fire staff and vice versa on any given shift.

(Public Safety Committee recessed from 9:07 pm to 9:15 pm)

Capt. Smith stated that with the state of the world today, it is prudent to keep the funds available so that if the City needs to meet the ultimate challenge, the money is there.

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**Resolution**

**MOTION** by Robbins, seconded by Golden,

**Whereas**, the Fire Department's Five Year Plan approved by City Council requires specific manpower staff; and

**Whereas**, the approved Five Year Plan failed to address the staffing needs associated with strong fire inspection and education programs; and

**Whereas**, the Fire Department's current rescue and medical equipment is in need of replacement including several Jaws of Life units;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Public Safety Committee hereby recommends preserving the 0.1 mills proposed to be removed from the Fire Department's Budget by Council.

**Further Resolved** that the Public Safety Committee recommends that those funds be used in the areas as previously mentioned.

Ayes: Duistermars, Eble, Formanczyk, Golden, Robbins  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**9d. Five Year Plan**

Mr. Robbins stated that he has concerns with the Five Year Plan and how the City is currently using it. He noted that the majority of Council Members have a different perspective of how the Fire Department is being run as opposed to what was in the Five Year Plan.

Discussion commenced regarding the following:

- If the Fire Department is fully staffed, instead of running two (2) ALS units on two engines, the Department runs one (1) on a Suburban and two (2) on the engines.
- Suburban run on all medical calls.

- Suburban goes to fires if it is available.
- The use of the Suburban is an attempt to take some of the wear and tear off the engines.

Mr. Robbins noted that he had put in a request for information and would prefer to discuss this further once the information is provided. He expressed concern regarding the following:

- What the purpose of the Five Year Plan was to accomplish.
- Whether or not there is an ambulance on the scene within a specific amount of time.
- If the Paid-On-Call fire fighters are not pulling ambulances in an expedient fashion then the City is back to square one.
- The whole idea of adding additional full time firefighters was to be sure that the rescue portion of the firefighters' calls provide the City with an outlet where the City can get transportation to the medical calls.
- Make sure we are addressing it rather than regressing it.

Chairperson Duistermars indicated that this will appear on a future agenda for additional discussion.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Upcoming meetings:

- Joint Meeting with Financial Services - Thursday, September 18, 2003 7:00 PM at 1700 W. Hamlin Rd.
- Regular Meeting - Monday, October 4 2003, 7:30 PM at the Public Safety Building, 1111 Horizon Court.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz and Susan Galeczka.