



Rochester Hills Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Adam Alleman, Bryan Barnett, Ron Crowell, Louis Eble, Gary Elliot, Andy LeBlanc, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Andrew Roscoe, Bob Smith

Monday, March 14, 2005

7:30 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Raschke called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bryan Barnett, Linda Raschke, Gerald Robbins, Louis Eble and Gary Elliott

Non-Voting Members Present: Ron Crowell, Robert Smith, Adam Alleman, and Andrew Roscoe

Non-Voting Members Absent: Andy LeBlanc

Others Present: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2005-0177 Regular Meeting - January 10, 2005

Attachments: DRAFT Minutes.pdf; Resolution.pdf

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

Resolved that the Public Safety Committee hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2005 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barnett, Raschke, Robbins, Eble and Elliott

COMMUNICATIONS

Interim Chief Crowell informed the Committee that the interview process was taking place for the full-time firefighter position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0028 Discussion of Five-Year Plan and Fire Response Time

Attachments: 011204 Req 5 Yr Plan & CEMS.pdf; 020204 CEMS Response Times & False Alarm Info.pdf; 2004 Bravo Staffing Statistics.pdf

The Committee briefly discussed a process to develop a new Five Year Plan for the Rochester Hills Fire Department (RHFD) and noted the following points:

* A new Five Year Plan would provide a direction and identify the needs for the RHFD. It would be an educational tool for the voters regarding any millage renewals or requests.

* The proposed survey that will be sent to other municipal Fire Departments and will provide helpful information to develop a new Five Year Plan (also see File 2005-0170).

* A new Five Year Plan should be a separate plan from any plan involving the contracted police services with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) for the Sub Station in Rochester Hills.

Discussed

2005-0233

Discuss Police Millages

Attachments: 033105 Memo Jenuwine.pdf; 2005 - OCSD Millage Analysis.pdf; 2005 - OCSD Millage Analysis R&E.pdf; 050905 Supplmtl Info - Memo Jenuwine - 3 scenarios.pdf

The Committee briefly discussed the current two (2) millages for the contracted police services from OCSD. The concensus, based on the Committee's past experience, was that any Fire and Police millage requests should be two (2) separate issues. If one of the two current Police millages expire in 2006, it would be prudent to begin plans as soon as possible to determine how to educate the residents.

The Committee requested that Julie Jenuwine, Finance Director, be asked to make a presentation at the April Public Safety Committee regarding the following specific questions:

1. What are the millage amounts [for both millages] for the Police and when are they due [to expire].

2. What do we need at a minimum to eliminate the General Fund subsidy.

The Committee also discussed developing a financial comparison between a city-supported Police Department versus the current contracted services from OCSD. It could be an educational tool to show the residents what it costs to provide the current services. The Committee also noted that the start-up costs alone for a city-supported Police Department would be approximately \$10 to \$12 million dollars and that may or may not include liability and workers compensation insurance, etc. During the mid-1980's, the City, which was Avon Township at that time, discussed the possibility of starting a city-supported Police Department, but the idea was disbanded.

Discussed

2005-0320

Discuss Public Safety Aids Program

The Committee discussed Public Safety Aids and noted the following points:

* There could be collective bargaining agreement issues because of the contracted police services with OCSD. But if the City wanted to form a Public Safety Aid Department of its own, it should be outside of the contract with OCSD.

* OCSD uses "reserve officers" which are similar to RHFD's "paid on call" (POC) firefighters.

* The City of Troy uses Public Safety Aids for several things that may be feasible to do in Rochester Hills.

Chairperson Raschke will contact Major Dammon Shields at 248.858.4970, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, 1201 N. Telegraph Road, for more information about the Public

Safety Aids. Capt. Smith will provide the Committee with a packet of information from the City of Troy.

Discussed

2005-0110

Monthly Report - Fire Chief

Attachments: 020705 Memo Crowell.pdf

Interim Chief Crowell discussed the 2004 Bravo (Ambulance) Staffing Statistics for the Rochester Hills Fire Department (RHFD) that included a report as requested by the Committee. He noted the following points:

- * The 2004 Bravo (Ambulance) Staffing Statistics were broken down annually. The 2003 statistics distributed by the previous Fire Chief [Walterhouse] were broken down quarterly.*
- * Council should begin receiving statistics on a monthly basis.*
- * The 2004 response time with one (1) person responding has drastically improved especially for the night shift. The improvement is due to each fire station being required to have two (2) people assigned as a medical team one (1) night a week. Most stations have enough staff to cover two (2) nights a week.*
- * In addition, the RHFD has one (1) ambulance staffed with two (2) POC Firefighters for the day shift which is 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There will soon be two (2) staffed ambulances during the day shift which will also improve response times. A station will not be "toned" until both units are tied up.*
- * Recently, there have been approximately six (6) POC firefighters that have received their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) licenses and are available during the day shift.*

Interim Chief Crowell presented an update on the RHFD that included a report dated February 7, 2005, as requested by the Committee. He discussed the following points:

- * The RHFD is planning to hire two (2) basic EMTs to staff an ambulance during the day shift in addition to the current day shift employees. This will allow them to function with one (1) ambulance from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM, two (2) ambulances from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and one (1) ambulance from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.*
- * The rationale behind sending two (2) units [an engine and an ambulance] to one (1) call is that many times an Advance Life Support (ALS) call can turn into a Basic Life Support (BLS) call, which frees up the paramedics to run another call. If an ambulance only goes to a call that turns into a BLS call, it is tied up and cannot go to an ALS call.*
- * The RHFD received permission from the Oakland County Medical Control Board (OCMCB) to run two (2) two-person ALS units and one (1) one-person ALS unit as needed.*
- * The rationale behind sending a fire engine staffed with paramedics to a medical call instead of sending an ambulance is so that the fire engine will be in service to go to a fire call if needed.*
- * The POCs that are on the ambulances can be part of both divisions: Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Fire; or can be part of EMS only; but are not part of Fire only.*
- * It is current practice to have an ambulance staged at the scene of a fire and for police action. It can be a BLS or an ALS ambulance, however, it is preferred to be an ALS ambulance with the understanding that the ALS ambulance can be substituted with a*

BLS ambulance if needed.

** Interim Chief Crowell gave an example of how well the North Oakland County Mutual Aid Agreement works between the fire departments when handling multiple calls in a very short period of time. The RHFD also has a mutual aid agreement with the Shelby Township Fire Department and a verbal understanding for mutual aid with the Washington Township Fire Department.*

** The RHFD has implemented a "call-back" policy regarding structure fires for local full-time firefighters on the day shift who may be off duty. Some of the "out-station" firefighters will be trained on Truck 1 so they respond to Station 1 if dispatched. The full-time firefighters that live outside of Rochester Hills will also be included and will receive one (1) hour's pay if they respond to the "call-back" but were not needed.*

The Committee thanked Interim Chief Crowell for his report and presentation.

Discussed

NEW BUSINESS

2005-0170

Discuss Survey to Municipal Fire Departments

Attachments: Compiled Survey Responses.pdf; Survey List - Municipal Fire Depts.xls; Response letter to Fire Chiefs.pdf; Auburn Hills FD Survey.pdf; Brandon Twp FD Survey.pdf; Chesterfield Twp FD Survey.pdf; Farmington Hills FD Survey.pdf; Independence Twp FD Survey.pdf

1st Draft Questions

The Committee discussed the 1st draft questions and made the following suggestions:

** Include a question that asks what POCs are paid at other Fire Departments and what types of incentive programs are offered to improve POC retainment and/or response to calls.*

** Expand Question #9 to include population density, the number of school buildings services, residential makeup, the number of expressways that run through the community, and what other police services are provided, i.e. State Police, etc.*

** Re-word Question #3 to read "What is your initial apparatus response to a medical emergency".*

Chairperson Raschke will forward the revisions to the Clerk's Office and the final survey will be reviewed at the April Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Interim Chief Crowell commented that the City of Troy volunteer firefighters receive a pension. However, a salary is paid to each station which can use the money for items that benefit the entire station, i.e. cabins, pontoon boats, dinners, etc. RHFD has recently furnished some of their stations with big-screen TVs, DVDs, VCRs, PlayStations, and more durable furniture as incentives for POCs. He also noted that the hourly pay rate for POCs was increased to \$12.50 per hour.

Discussed

YOUTH COMMENTS

Mr. Roscoe commented that school proms are coming up which may be a time of more alcohol related incidents. Capt. Smith agreed and noted that school graduations and proms do place more strain on the OCSD, and they do enforce a "zero tolerance" policy. Capt. Smith also informed the Committee that in the past, OCSD was granted funds

from the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) to team up with the Michigan State Police to respond to alcohol related parties. However, the information used to locate the parties was not reliable and therefore did not warrant the costs associated with the overtime pay.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Robbins repeated his suggestion from the February Public Safety Committee Meeting that the Committee request Mr. Dan Casey, Manager of Economic Development for the City's Planning and Development Department, to be invited to a Public Safety Committee Meeting to discuss the possibility of capturing Tax Increment Finance (TIF) funding from the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) zones and Federal SmartZones to help fund police and fire protection for the City.

Mr. Elliott requested that Interim Chief Crowell provide a basic definition sheet that describes fire calls and fire equipment apparatus if possible.

Chairperson Raschke informed the Committee of a court room shooting in Atlanta, Georgia between a prisoner and a judge. Capt. Smith noted that OCSD is very proactive regarding courtroom security due to the experience with high-profile trials in the past.

Chairperson Raschke briefly mentioned a resolution that was passed at a City Council meeting regarding incident pagers for Council members. Interim Chief Crowell noted that he is willing to provide whatever is requested and explained that it would require the Supervisor of Communications to rework the pagers which would take time. He also advised that if a pager is rewired to received all incidents calls, it may "go off" every five (5) minutes. Chairperson Raschke requested that Interim Chief Crowell send a memo to Council members stating something to the effect that "whoever wants it in their pager can have it in their pager".

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, April 4, 2005 - 7:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Raschke adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Minutes were prepared by Denise Mertz.