



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

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Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee

Thomas Blackstone, Dale Hetrick, Orville Hoksch Jr., Jorge Ipina, Walter Johnson, LeAnne Rogers, Tom Stephens
Council Members: Greg Hooper, Michael Webber
Youth Representatives: Pranita Balusu, Sharanya Pai

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hetrick called the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee to order at 6:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Present** 7 - Thomas Blackstone, Dale Hetrick, Greg Hooper, Walter Johnson, LeAnne Rogers, Tom Stephens and Michael Webber
- Absent** 2 - Orville Hoksch and Jorge Ipina

Others Present:

Sean Canto, Fire Chief

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION

2014-0242

Attachments: [Supp Questions part 2.pdf](#)
[Supp Fire Department Staffing Questions for 061114 Meeting.pdf](#)
[Supp ISO PPC Analysis.pdf](#)
[Supp Survey Monkey.pdf](#)
[Supp ISO PPC Info.pdf](#)
[Supp 2011 MFS.pdf](#)
[Supp TV Change Stats 2014.pdf](#)
[Rochester Hills Population Projections.pdf](#)
[Fire Station Building Report.pdf](#)
[Comparison of Local Municipal Fire Departments.pdf](#)
[Supp - Average Start Up Cost.pdf](#)
[Supp. Facilities Improvement and Personnel Staffing Report.pdf](#)

Chairperson Hetrick thanked the Committee Members for the extra work and time put into the presentations to go before City Council.

Member Hooper suggested that because of the looming deadlines, the

Committee could make its proposed fire facilities presentation to City Council at its next meeting on Monday, July 21, 2014.

Chief Canto *briefly summarized some of his process and that led to his discussions with the Committee since May 2014.*

The Committee discussed:

- Review of the 2011 Insurance Service Office (ISO) Report (attached) about the City's rating;*
- ISO evaluation is conducted approximately every ten (10) years (unless requested sooner due to changes);*
- City's rating (Class 4) was composed of: evaluation of emergency calls and response time procedures, City's water supply, the ratio of manpower and equipment in support of the City's population and square mile footage for medical and fire emergency efficiencies;*
- The ISO rating and its impact on City residents' homeowner insurance rates;*
- Full time fire fighter/paramedics (FFPs) and Paid-on-Call fire fighters (POCs);*
- Examples of shift and staffing structures in a typical work week for Fire Stations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;*
- Impact of manpower shortage (i.e. sick days, family funeral, vacations and holidays);*
- Approximate times in 2013 that the City's Fire Department provided and received mutual aid from neighboring communities;*
- In 2013, the number of incidents and the approximate response times (which are averaged out due to varying factors);*
- An example of a fire scene - the necessary number of people and response time (can vary due to size and severity of fire emergency);*
- Post fire event evaluation of fire fighters' heart rate and blood pressure for the prevention of stroke or heart attack;*
- Improvement areas that could positively impact its ISO class rating;*
- Automatic mutual aid vs. mutual aid (with neighboring communities); and*
- City of Troy is a 'volunteer' fire department and there has been no mutual aid arrangement.*

Chief Canto *reviewed the fire millage in the City's Charter to research the number of fire fighters that could be hired. He reported that:*

- He had met with both the fire fighters' unions, the International Association of Fire Fighters (full time fire fighter/paramedics) (IAFF) and the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) POCs in discussions as to staffing of the City's Fire Department;*
- He concluded that both unions had expressed an interest in the exploration of the creation of a 'part time' fire fighter staffing structure; and*
- The benefits would enable better coverage of the City's fire stations.*

Chief Canto *commented that this may increase the number of recruits and shared that many POCs both formerly and currently employed by the City had expressed an interest in a part time structure. He explained further, that part time fire fighters would not have a City residency requirement and this could*

have a significant impact on the number of recruits. He briefly discussed the average age of possible recruits and retention.

The Committee Members and Chief Canto discussed various work schedule and staffing structure scenarios as well as the Fire Department's administrative and support staffing structure.

Chief Canto discussed his future plans to:

- Conduct a thorough evaluation of the Fire Department's overall operations and facilities structure every five (5) years;
- Evaluate fire station facility accommodations in the event extreme winter conditions effect employees' travel (to ensure shift coverage - i.e. to possibly 'house' two (2) overlapping shifts);
- Research the City's aging population and when the City would be 'built out';
- Evaluate response times and run volume locations; and
- Research the status of mutual aide with neighboring communities;

Discussion ensued by the Committee Members as to the Committee's recommendation(s) to City Council for both long-term (amend the City's Charter to authorize additional millage for funding the City's Fire Department) and short-term solutions (Headlee Override Millage Proposal) for sufficient funding of the City's Fire services.

Member Rogers commented that the Committee had been tasked with finding out how much professional quality fire service the City's residents can afford.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Hetrick reported that he had spoken with Linda Shepard at the Rochester Post and she would prepare an article from Member Roger's Press Release.

The Committee Members discussed other publications that could be contacted in regard to the Committee's Press Release in regard to the August 4, 2014 ballot initiative. The Members learned that the educational postcards had been mailed to the City's registered absentee ballot voters and that another wave of educational postcards would be mailed at the end of July for the City's registered voters who vote at the City's precincts.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tentative - Wednesday, July 16, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee, Chairperson Hetrick adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Dale Hetrick, Chairperson

Prepared by Christine A. Wissbrun
Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office