



# Rochester Hills Minutes - Draft

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## Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee

*Sharon Dow, Jayson Graves, Greg Hooper, Heidi Morris, Ryan Smith,  
Scott Struzik and James Tokarski*  
*Council Members: David Blair and Dale A. Hetrick*  
*Youth Representatives: Caroline Bull and Shreya Pillai*

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Tuesday, June 27, 2023

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive  
Conference Room #130

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Chairperson Hooper called the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Michigan Time.*

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 6 - Jayson Graves, Dale Hetrick, Greg Hooper, Heidi Morris, Scott Struzik and James Tokarski

**Absent** 3 - David Blair, Sharon Dow and Ryan Smith

### Others Present:

*Sean Canto, Fire Chief/Emergency Services Director*  
*Todd Gary, Deputy Fire Chief*  
*Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer*  
*Captain Russ Yeiser, Oakland County Sheriff's Office*

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

*None.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**2023-0298** Approval of Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2019

**Attachments:** [071019 Minutes.pdf](#)  
[0298 Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Struzik, seconded by Graves, that this matter be Approved as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 6 - Graves, Hetrick, Hooper, Morris, Struzik and Tokarski

**Absent** 3 - Blair, Dow and Smith

**Resolved, that the Minutes of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2019 is approved as presented.**

**(Member Blair arrived at 6:03 p.m.)**

## ROLL CALL

- Present** 7 - David Blair, Jayson Graves, Dale Hetrick, Greg Hooper, Heidi Morris, Scott Struzik and James Tokarski
- Absent** 2 - Sharon Dow and Ryan Smith

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 2023-0303 Election of Chairperson

**Attachments:** [Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Struzik, seconded by Hetrick, that Greg Hooper be appointed Chairperson of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee for 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Aye** 7 - Blair, Graves, Hetrick, Hooper, Morris, Struzik and Tokarski
- Absent** 2 - Dow and Smith

**Resolved, that Greg Hooper is appointed Chairperson of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee for 2023.**

### 2023-0304 Election of Vice Chairperson

**Attachments:** [Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Hooper, seconded by Hetrick, that Jayson Graves be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee for 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Aye** 7 - Blair, Graves, Hetrick, Hooper, Morris, Struzik and Tokarski
- Absent** 2 - Dow and Smith

**Resolved, that Jayson Graves is appointed Vice Chairperson of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee for 2023.**

### 2023-0306 Police Funding

**Attachments:** [Supp Police Funding Presentation.pdf](#)

**Joe Snyder, CFO, thanked the Committee Members for meeting. He stated that the Committee has not met since July 10, 2019. He recalled that at its last meeting, the Committee's discussion had been about infrastructure, and in particular, local streets. He stated that the focus of the Committee's meeting is public safety, specifically the City's police and fire services.**

**He continued that the Committee needs to discuss the two police millages that will be expiring at the end of Fiscal Year 2024; whether the Committee has a plan and recommendation to make to City Council regarding the expiring police millages.**

**Mr. Snyder** gave a brief overview of the funding for the City's police services:

- The vast majority of the funding for the City's police services comes from taxes, about 85% of police's revenue
- 15% is from other revenues combined with reimbursements from the school liaison program, mini contracts that the police may have around the City with local businesses, a minor amount from tickets and fines and some from investment earnings
- Currently two separate police millages are in place, both millages went into effect by voter approval in 2012 and are eligible to be levied through Fiscal Year 2024.

Discussion ensued as to what kind of millage model to have in place beginning Fiscal Year 2025. Mr. Snyder surmised that some of the Committee Members may be wondering why this discussion is happening in 2023. He explained that 2024 is a Presidential Election and therefore, will have a full plate and not be the best timing and attention for a police millage ballot item. He recalled that the Committee had found in the past that bringing a police millage discussion to the voters might be best handled in a lighter election season.

**Mr. Snyder** gave a brief update as to the current funding for police services:

- Police Millage 1 is currently levying 1.1359 mill and that is its maximum levy and generates the City approximately \$4.6 million dollars
- Police Millage 2 is currently levying 2.3505 so there would be approximately almost 1.2 mill that is not being levied for police services
- The City is levying what the City needs for funding its police services
- The City is levying 2.25 of essentially the 3.5 that the City is levying
- Before 2012, the City had only one small police millage (Police Millage 1) that was right around the 1.2 mill or 1.1 now with the Headlee Amendment rollback
- The rest of the funding for police services came from a transfer from the General Fund
- City Council at that time decided to stop the General Fund subsidy of the police services and to levy the funding for the police services
- Police Millage 1 was renewed but because it was maxed out, Police Millage 2 was put in place because it could levy up to 2.5 mills higher than what was needed

**Mr. Snyder** quoted the City Council intent from 2012: "Whereas, the Rochester Hills City Council wants to clearly state on the public record that if the police millage passes, the second police millage, City Council intends to offset the additional mills levied by correspondingly reducing the City's General Operating Millage levy so that no net tax increase to the taxpayers will result from the approval of the special police millage. He explained that the City figures out what the police services need and then make a corresponding increase or decrease to the general levy so that the bottom line does not change. He continued that because anything more than what is needed for police services would be less for the General Fund and visa versa. He stated that there is somewhat of a relationship between those 2

*millages and has been in effect since 2012, for about 10 years and the City has been operating under this model to maintain the same bottom line with police services getting what it needs and making the corresponding reduction to the general levy. He commented that it has worked out quite well for the City.*

*Member Tokarski inquired as to why there were 2 millages rather than just one.*

***Mr. Snyder** responded that it was easier for the City's residents to renew the current millage in 2012. He continued that Police Millage 2 was a little more complicated with General Fund offsets and provided the additional funds for police services. He described both millages expiring at the end of Fiscal Year 2024 so the City will need to have something in place for Fiscal Year 2025. He explained further that this would be an opportunity to basically renew and combine Police Millages 1 and 2 into one all encompassing police millage. He stated that these are the numbers that would take it up to the Headlee Amendment cap amount. He stated further that the City is at 2.3 mills basically generating approximately \$9.3 million; if the City went all the way up to the maximum levy, it would be approximately \$14.3 million which could allow more police officers to be hired; but he said that the reason the City does not levy up to the maximum amount is that it would mean a negative impact of approximately \$5 million less to the General Fund. The Committee could recommend to City Council to combine and renew both Police Millage 1 and 2 into one police millage to carry on beginning Fiscal Year 2025.*

*Discussion ensued by the Committee Members as to continuing City Council's intent from 2012. The discussion then turned to the length of the millage being for a 10-year period. It was also determined that there would not be enough time for the police millage being added as a consideration on the City Charter Millage. Mr. Snyder gave a brief description of what a charter millage is comprised of once a millage is approved by the City's voters and that those millages do not have to be reviewed and renewed by the voters. He explained that when Avon Township became the City of Rochester Hills in 1984, the City currently had 3 City Charter Millages: General, Fire and Library Levies. He commented that the City residents may feel as dedicated about having a police millage being a part of the City's Charter as well. Mr. Snyder explained that in the future, if the police millage ballot proposal is successful in November 2023 (millage expiration in Fiscal Year 2034) and if recommended by both the Committee and City Council, in order for the police millage to be an additional City Charter Millage consideration by the City's voters, it would be necessary to submit the police millage addition to the City's Charter Millage for review to the State Attorney General's Office in approximately 8 years to allow ample preparation time for placement on the City's ballot for a vote by the City's residents.*

***Member Hooper** shared his opinion that the Charter Millage would be the preferred method but due to the essence of time, he suggested that the Committee recommend to City Council the combination of both of the police millages into one millage for a period of ten years placed on the City's ballot for the voters to decide.*

**Member Struzik** concurred with Member Hooper. He asked Mr. Snyder for clarification that the motion would be to recommend to City Council for the combination of the two millages into one millage for 3.4864 mills for a 10-year duration.

**Mr. Snyder** responded in the affirmative and that this would begin Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2034.

The Committee Members were in agreement and Mr. Snyder stated that if the police millage were voted into the City's Charter, then it would no longer be necessary to bring police service millage(s) back every 5-10 years for a vote by the City's residents.

A motion was made by Struzik, seconded by Tokarski, that the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee recommends to City council to place on the November 2023 ballot, the renewal of Special Police Millages I and II into a combined new ten (10) year Special Police millage beginning in 2024 through 2033 to provide funding for the City Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2034 Special Police Fund for approval as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye** 7 - Blair, Graves, Hetrick, Hooper, Morris, Struzik and Tokarski

**Absent** 2 - Dow and Smith

**Resolved**, that the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee recommends to City Council to place on the November 2023 ballot, the renewal of Special Police Millages I and II into a combined new ten (10) year Special Police Millage beginning in 2024 through 2033 to provide funding for the City Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2034 Special Police Fund for approval as presented.

**2023-0307** Fire Staffing

**Attachments:** [Fire Presentation.pdf](#)

**Chairperson Hooper** introduced Sean Canto, Fire Chief.

**Chief Canto** provided background on the Fire Strategic Plan, approved by City Council in 2019, which was developed from 2017 to 2019. The plan addressed nine areas including equipment, buildings, staffing, training, and professional development. The department's incident volume has grown significantly since 2014, from around 6,000 to almost 8,000 incidents annually, with a 2-4% increase each year. The department operates as an all-hazards emergency service, responding to a wide range of incidents. They also focus on community risk reduction. The department adheres to best practices, including response times and staffing recommendations for structure fires, which contribute to their ISO 2 rating and compliance with standards like NFPA 1710, MIOSHA, and OSHA.

He then discussed the Rochester Hills Fire Department's increasing incident volume, projecting 9,000 incidents by 2027. A significant factor in this increase is the growing number of medical incidents involving adults aged 65 and older,

*which accounted for 65% of patient contacts in 2022. The City also has a growing number of assisted living facilities, particularly concentrated in the Adams Road-South Boulevard corridor. These facilities often house more residents than indicated by "bed" counts. The department is also experiencing a rise in "concurrent incidents," where multiple calls occur simultaneously, putting a strain on resources. In 2022, there were approximately 2,300 instances of two or more incidents happening at the same time, a substantial increase from 2012.*

*He continued that the Rochester Hills Fire Department experiences frequent, often concurrent calls, averaging a new incident every 68 minutes. A significant portion (one-third) of their call volume comes from assisted living, nursing, and congregant living facilities, impacting stations 1 and 3, their busiest. Station 4 is expected to see increased call volume due to a new assisted living facility. Response times for priority incidents average 5 minutes and 15 seconds, but some runs take 6 to 10 minutes, accounting for 27% of calls, often due to units being dispatched from further away. The busiest times for calls are between 7 AM and 7 PM, coinciding with peak hours for neighboring departments, which limits mutual aid.*

**Chief Canto** *stated that the Rochester Hills Fire Department aims to maintain strong fund balances through 2030, even with anticipated ambulance purchases. They are an "all-hazards" department, responding to all vehicle accidents with a medic unit and an engine for quicker resolution, personnel protection, and road cleanup, unlike Troy Fire. Overtime is difficult to predict but is affected by injuries and medical leave, with firefighters having approximately 156 hours of scheduled overtime. The addition of "jumper" positions has helped reduce overtime costs by filling staffing gaps. Stations 1 and 4 can sleep eight people, while stations 2, 3, and 5 can sleep six. The department is not experiencing a dramatic increase in overtime due to call volume. The current apparatus and air packs are sufficient through Phase 5 of staffing increases, eliminating the need for additional equipment purchases. To achieve an ISO 1 rating, the department needs more personnel, as current staffing levels are impacted by medical calls and limited assistance from neighboring departments. Only Grand Rapids currently holds an ISO 1 rating in the state. Station 3's complement will include a 24/7 fire apparatus and ambulance staff, and its ladder truck is ALS equipped. Station 1's engine is also ALS equipped. This ensures continued fire and medical coverage even when ambulances are on other incidents, reducing response times from other stations. Response times for priority runs are currently 5 minutes and 15 seconds. Staffing increases at Stations 1 and 3 will help improve this by keeping units within their high-call areas, as these are the two busiest stations. The fire trucks, though not ambulances, carry ALS equipment for immediate medical intervention. The department currently has reserve ambulances, and the focus is on providing ALS service on scene, as patients are not immediately transported.*

**Chief Canto** *explained that additional staffing will allow for 24/7 staffing of all apparatus at Stations 1 and 3, eliminating the need for 'jump stations' where personnel shift between an ambulance and a fire truck. For major special events like the Festival of the Hills, Christmas Parade, and tree lighting, the department*

*utilizes overtime and mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to ensure adequate coverage for both the event and ongoing city-wide calls. The department plans to hire 10 new firefighters, with the hiring process starting after City Council approves the budget this year, aiming to have them working by summer of next year after a training academy. Chief Canto and the City's Chief Financial Officer, Joe Snyder are preparing to present this plan, which includes no change to the millage rate, to the City Council at their July meeting.*

*At a meeting, the Public Safety and Public Infrastructure Committee unanimously voted (moved by Member Struzik, seconded by Member Morris) to recommend to the City Council the implementation of Phase 2 of the Fire Strategic Plan. This phase includes hiring 10 additional full-time fire department members within the existing millage. Mr. Snyder will be presenting the 7-year updated forecast at the last City Council meeting in July, which will include details on this plan and its budget implications. The police millage language will be brought forward at the first City Council meeting in July; and the fire plan will be discussed at the second meeting of City Council in July.*

**A motion was made by Struzik, seconded by Morris, to recommend to City Council to implement Phase 2 of the Fire Strategic Plan including the hiring of 10 additional full time members within the existing millage. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Blair, Graves, Hetrick, Hooper, Morris, Struzik and Tokarski

**Absent** 2 - Dow and Smith

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

*- To Be Determined*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business before the Committee, it was moved by Graves and seconded by Tokarski to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.*

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*Greg Hooper, Chairperson*

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