

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Haraz N. Ghanbari. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Jim Matuszak. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Director of Public Safety, and Laura Alkire, Law Director.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Donna Thomas, City of Perrysburg dispatcher for 42 years, was present to advocate for saving the dispatch center. She said that all of the dispatchers said that they are willing to do emergency medical dispatching and medical calls are a small percentage of what they do. Mr. Ghanbari asked Ms. Kabat if she had an estimation of the time when a decision will be made. Ms. Kabat said that she is close to having as much information as possible from the Wood County Sheriff's Office, but she has not given it to the Mayor. She added that no decision will be made without a police chief on board.

POLICE RADIOS

Mr. Ghanbari stated that the Wood County Sheriff made a presentation to City Council at the February 5, 2019 City Council meeting regarding the police radios. Mr. Ghanbari said he emailed the Chiefs of Police of neighboring communities that are on the Lucas County radio system including: Rossford, Maumee, Lake Township, and Perrysburg Township. He read the responses that he received from each of them. They all spoke favorably of the 800 mhz system and recommended that Perrysburg transition to the Lucas County system. Mr. Ghanbari said that we need to make an informed decision. He acknowledged a new radio system is more expensive than the ad hoc committee's recommendation, but he expressed concern about too many radios in the cruisers, the ability the officers' ability to monitor and communicate. He said financially the City can afford to move to the Lucas County system, and he does not want a decision at the expense of the safety of our citizens and officers. He implored the Administration to support upgrading to the 800 mhz system. Mr. Matuszak said that absent any information to refute the information provided by Mr. Ghanbari from the neighboring communities, he agrees with the recommendation to upgrade to the 800 mhz system.

UPDATE FROM FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz stated that the number of calls the Fire Division responds to is progressively increasing. He said that response times have decreased since the new station has opened. He said that he is still working on the three month period of gathering information to see if additional staffing is needed. There was discussion regarding the number of firefighters on each shift and what the minimum staffing levels are. Chief Ruiz said that if the current trends continue, three additional firefighters may not be enough, they might need six but he needs three full months of data before he can make a recommendation.

EPOXY FLOORS AT NEW FIRE STATION

The Committee reviewed a request to have approximately 7,400 square feet of concrete floor in the apparatus bay, SCBA room, turnout gear and storage area in the new fire station covered with an epoxy coating which would aid in maintenance. Mr. Ghanbari asked if this request has anything to do with the cracks in the floor. Chief Ruiz said it does not. The Chief said that when going through the details of the fire station, he assumed it would have a coating and they are already seeing stains. Ms. Kabat said that the cracks at the fire station are cosmetic in nature, and she offered to have a structural engineer come talk to the committee. Mr. Matuszak said that he doesn't want Lathrop to do it, he wants an independent company to look at the cracks. Mr. Ghanbari stated that this item will be tabled until we get a report on the cracks.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE FIRE VEHICLE

Chief Ruiz asked that this item be put on hold. He said that he is getting quotes for a new vehicle and they vary greatly. Mr. Ghanbari asked what the vehicle would be used for, and Chief Ruiz said it would be a fire prevention vehicle.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEM FOR STATION 38

Chief Ruiz asked permission to enter into a contract with MagneGrip for \$40,941 to install a vehicle exhaust system in fire station 38. He explained that the exhaust system is to aid in the removal of cancer causing carcinogens. The Fire Department was approved for a \$48,000 grant for this purchase, and the City's share is 10%. Mr. Ghanbari asked if this is the company that installed the system at the new fire station. Chief Ruiz said that it is. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the agreement with MagneGrip.

ANNUAL PROPHOENIX AGREEMENT – POLICE

Ms. Kabat requested approval of an agreement with ProPhoenix in the amount of \$33,246.75 for support and maintenance for the CAD, WDA and RMS systems as well as NetMotion which provides connectivity to the MDT's in the police vehicles. Ms. Born asked why we don't have the other components available from ProPhoenix including the Internal Affairs module, the Citizens Services Program, and the Corrections Management System. Mr. Matuszak asked if this agreement has any impact on the decision regarding radios. Ms. Kabat said it does not, this is for software maintenance. Mr. Ghanbari asked if the Administration made a recommendation to move dispatch, which he is not in favor of, how it would affect this agreement. Ms. Kabat said that if that decision were made, we might not need the level of service provided by the agreement. She added that this is a one year agreement and even if a decision was made to move dispatch, it would not happen immediately. The Committee asked that Ms. Kabat check to see if ProPhoenix would agree to a contract for a shorter term.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ghanbari asked about the white fire hydrants on Fort Meigs Road. Ms. Kabat said that they might belong to the Northwestern Water and Sewer District. She said that she will check with the Director of Public Utilities and email the committee.

Mr. Ghanbari asked if a response has gone out to the fire union regarding an issue discussed at last month's meeting. Ms. Kabat said it has not and they will work on the response when the HR manager gets back from vacation.

Mr. Ghanbari asked that they look into the capability of an audio feed from City Council chambers to the Police Division. Ms. Kabat said that she will follow-up with Gary Kleinfelter and Amanda Owens. There was a brief discussion regarding a sergeant at arms, and Mr. Ghanbari asked that the Administration look into the feasibility of it.

Ms. Born said that she received a message from a resident on Elm Street regarding limbs that are down because of recent storms. Ms. Kabat said that the Department of Public Service will be converting one dump truck that is used for spreading salt to try and get the limbs from the hardest hit homes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haraz N. Ghanbari".

Haraz N. Ghanbari, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.