

# Public Safety Committee

June 17, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson:

Council Chambers

## Minutes

### In Attendance:

Jerry Walter, Chairperson  
Jane Braunlich, Member  
Glen Pritchard, Fire Chief

Mayor George Doscher  
Matthew Sentner, Police Chief  
Connie Flasher, DAS  
Mike Lutz, CEO

Michael Kutschbach is excused

**Jerry Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

### Citizens:

- ❖ Mr. Mike Joyce from Joyce Automotive explained to the Committee what services his business provides to the Borough.
  - He stated that he knows there have been issues about towing prices and noted they are at least average or below average in their prices with other reputable towing companies.
  - He further explained the other complimentary services that Joyce Automotive provides to the Borough.
  - He explained the pricing that he charges and stated that he would be willing to listen to any concerns that the Committee may have as well as provide any information they may request.
  - Mrs. Braunlich stated all she was looking for was competitive pricing.
  - Fire Chief Pritchard stated that Mr. Joyce's company provides cars for the Volunteer Fire Department to train on which would be a major expense otherwise.
  - Mrs. Braunlich stated she would like to have other towing companies contacted to see if the services that Joyce's towing provides can be provided at a lower cost.
  - There was further discussion by the Committee.
  - Mayor Doscher questioned when a car is broken down on the side of the road if the resident can request their own towing company to remove the vehicle.
  - Mr. Joyce stated that residents are not required to use their services unless the Police call them for certain situations.
  - He gave the Committee examples of when residents can contact their own towing company and when they are required to use the Borough's service.
  - Mrs. Braunlich stated that there are four other towing companies in the Boroughs vicinity that the Borough can use.
  - The DAS stated she will send a letter to each of these companies to see if they are able to provide the same type of service as Joyce Automotive at a lesser cost.

### Mayor:

- ❖ Mayor Doscher stated that he would like to compile information concerning rental inspection ordinances.
  - There was discussion about whether it would be better to focus on having property owners maintain the outside of the buildings before they focus on the interior.
  - Mayor Doscher stated that he believes a rental inspection ordinance to inspect interiors is important because it is a matter of quality of life.
  - The Borough would be able to keep up with the properties better so the buildings would be in better condition.

- He further explained the reason why he feels this rental inspection ordinance is important.
- There was further discussion by the Committee.
- The CEO stated the outside of the structure needs to be maintained, but when you are talking about a tenant they are at the mercy of the landlord. If the landlord does not want to fix the problems then they have no recourse.
- The CEO stated that he understands the outside of the buildings need to be taken care of but the interiors could be hazards to the tenants if they are also not maintained or inspected.
- Mr. Walter stated that at least the Committee start compiling the information for the Ordinance for it to be reviewed at a later time.
- ❖ Chief Sentner explained to the Committee that the reason they want to advertise for a Police Officer test to be done is if anyone would leave or retire there would be only 10 Officers. He stated that would mean there would be three officers on three shifts and it would be impossible to reduce the overtime with this type of scheduling constraints.
  - Mrs. Braunlich questioned why there are three scheduled Officers on a shift and not two
  - Chief Sentner explained that three are scheduled but only two work each shift.
  - He explained there would be no flexibility in the schedule to cover scheduled time off if an Officer is not replaced.
  - He stated that without that manpower to cover scheduled time off the overtime would not be reduced.
  - He stated if they choose not to replace an Office then they would not be able to provide a SRO Officer at Northgate School District.
  - Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to advertise for a Certified Police Officer list.
  - Mr. Walter requested to have a meeting with Chief Sentner to see how he does the scheduling. Chief Sentner stated that was fine.

#### **Fire Department:**

- ❖ Fire Chief Pritchard stated that Mr. Walter, Mrs. Braunlich and Mr. Gillingham attended the special seminar that they had and wanted to thank them for attending.
  - He stated he believes that due to attending they may have a different perspective of what Firefighters do.
- ❖ Fire Chief Pritchard noted that no bids were received for the Fire Vehicle.
  - The DAS stated that it cost approximately \$700.00 to advertise for the selling of this vehicle.
  - Fire Chief Pritchard said he will talk to the Volunteer Company to see what they would like to do and requested for it to be on the July Committee agenda.

#### **Police Department:**

- ❖ Chief Sentner stated that there three bids were received for the Police Crown Victoria.
  - The DAS presented to the Committee the bid sheet.
  - Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to accept the bid for the Crown Victoria from Rogers Auto Sales in the amount of \$662.00.
- ❖ Chief Sentner provided to the Committee information for purchasing in comparison to leasing a new Police Car.
  - He stated that he would like it to be an unmarked car.
  - There was discussion by the Committee.
  - Chief Sentner stated the Municipal lease would be different than a regular lease.

- He stated the lease is for three years where the Borough would hold the title and the registration. He explained that when the lease is over the Borough can purchase it outright or it can be traded in.
- He stated that on an Explorer the lease amount would be \$9,764.62 in three yearly installments at 6.3% interest.
- There was discussion about whether there is any money put away to lease or purchase a new Police Vehicle.
- Mayor Doscher stated he would like to have a Committee decision about whether to purchase or lease a vehicle by the next meeting in order for it to be presented to Council.
- ❖ The DAS stated that the quote that she received for an Emergency Box is \$649.
  - There was discussion about where it is going to be located.
  - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to purchase an emergency box at a cost not to exceed \$649.00.
- ❖ Chief Sentner stated to reduce the overtime of the Police Clerks either a shift needs to be cut or an additional clerk needs to be hired.
  - There was discussion about what shift would be the easiest to cut without having to reduce services as well as minimize logistical issues.
  - Chief Sentner stated that by reducing one shift it would take out five shifts that would need to be covered in a week.
  - He stated that a phone answering and routing system would also help with this.
  - Chief Sentner explained to the Committee what services the Police Clerk's provide for both the residents and the Police Officers.
  - Chief Sentner explained to the Committee that he would like to establish a parking authority where they would maintain and collect the parking meter money.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about whether the people collecting the money for the meters and police tickets are bonded.
  - The DAS stated she will check into it.
  - Mr. Walter made a motion to eliminate the 3am to 11a.m. Monday through Friday Police Clerk shift.
  - There was discussion about whether Council needs to make a decision about the shift elimination.
- ❖ There was discussion about whether the schedule change should happen prior to the Emergency Box being installed.
  - Mayor Doscher questioned if the Emergency call boxes can be installed at Memorial Park and Bayne Park.
  - The DAS stated she can look into it.
  - There was discussion by the Committee.
  - There was discussion about the maintenance costs for these emergency boxes once they are installed.
- ❖ Chief Sentner requested to purchase Police Publications at a cost of \$640.00.
  - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to purchase Police Publications at a cost not to exceed \$700.00.
- ❖ Chief Sentner stated he would like to have a data terminal in the new Police Car that will be purchased.
  - There was discussion about whether there is a need for these computers in the Police Cars and what cars will have them.
  - Chief Sentner stated that his vehicle is the only one that has one but it is offline.
  - There was discussion about the costs for these Police data terminals.

- Mr. Walter questioned if he is looking for grant money for this.
- Chief Sentner explained there are very few grants and explained how difficult it would be to obtain one of these grants.
- There was discussion by the Committee about how pay for these.
- Mayor Doscher questioned if there will there be money left in the Technology budget to fund the purchase of these computers.
- Mrs. Braunlich questioned if the technological items are coming out of the bond.
- There was discussion about whether there is money left in the bond for the technological purchases.
- The Committee stated if there is money is left in the Technology budget after the Borough has all the hardware and software to place data terminals in the Police Cars.
- Mrs. Braunlich stated before anything move forwards she would like to see how much is left in the bond and how much is earmarked for the various projects.
- Mr. Walter requested to have a cost study to see if there will be cost savings in having the computers in the Police cars.
- Chief Sentner stated he will be able to do that and have some information presented at the next meeting.

**Code Enforcement:**

- ❖ The CEO stated they have issued a purchase order to tear down the Perkins property.
  - He stated he will be scheduling the demolishing of this property.
- ❖ The CEO noted the 249 N. Balph Avenue was cleaned up by the Department of Public Works. Mayor Doscher stated he had received a thank you note from a neighbor for cleaning up that property.
  - Mr. Walter questioned if a lien is going to be placed on this property to cover the Borough's costs.
  - The CEO stated they will be liening the property and everything that the DPW had used and time that they spent will be apart of the lien.
- ❖ The CEO stated that 111 Sheridan will also be demolished.

**Administration:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Council Members:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Old Business:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**New Business:**


- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the amount of the group homes in Bellevue.
  - Mr. Walter questioned if there is a limit of number of group homes in Bellevue.
  - The CEO stated there are no number limits but there are limits to where they can be located in relation to each other.
  - There was discussion by the Committee.

**Citizens:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

  
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Connie Flasher  
Secretary

**Motions to be made:**

- 1. Motion to advertise for a Certified Police Officer list.**
- 2. Motion to accept the bid for the Crown Victoria from Rogers Auto Sales in the amount of \$662.00.**
- 3. Motion that was seconded to purchase an emergency box at a cost not to exceed \$649.00.**
- 4. Motion to eliminate the 3am to 11a.m. Monday through Friday Police Clerk shift.**