

CITIZENS PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 08, 2014

The Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 3:30 p.m. in the Study Session Room located at 201 W. Gray Street on the 8th day of May, 2014, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at City Hall located at 201 W. Gray Street 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Members Keith Allen, Malaka Elyazgi,
Steve Lucas, James Wheatley, David
Wilson, Chair Eddie Sims
(3 vacant positions)

ABSENT: None

COMMITTEE LIAISONS: Robert Wasoski, FOP (present)
Koby Harrington, OU (present)
IAFF (position vacant)

STAFF PRESENT: Suzanne Krohmer, Finance Department
Anthony Francisco, Finance Department
Keith Humphrey, Police Chief
Jamie Shattuck, Police Department
Jim Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Cindy Rosenthal

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sims.

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE CITIZENS PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF APRIL 03, 2014.

Member Wheatley moved that the Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes of April 3, 2014, be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Member Lucas;

and the question being to approve the Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes of April 3, 2014, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Members Keith Allen, Malaka Elyzagi,
Steve Lucas, James Wheatley, David
Wilson, Chair Eddie Sims

NAYES: None

Chair Sims declared the motion carried and the Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes of April 3, 2014, were approved.

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ITEM 3, being:

MONTHLY UPDATES

Finance Report

Chair Sims – Why is it running a negative total balance?

It was explained that one-time expensive capital equipment purchases can make the difference negative and expenditures can vary due to the number of pay periods in a month.

Sales tax collections are on target.

Member Elyazgi – I thought monthly taxes were around \$1 million.

Francisco - Total PSST is about \$9 million a year, so monthly collections are less than a million each month.

Chair Sims – Sales tax collections run two months behind, correct.

Francisco – Yes

Fire Department

Deputy Chief Bailey said two 55' Quints (fire engines) will be delivered this month to replace old apparatus we have.

Ten rookies will graduate on July 1st. These are non-PSST positions, just replacements from attrition.

Rain forecasted will help with wild fires.

Member Wilson - Have our units been involved in these grassfires?

Bailey - We sent a task force Sunday to help with the North Oklahoma City grass fires. The Cleveland County Task Force has an ambulance that goes with the firefighters. City of Norman Police and Fire Departments get along well and work well together.

Member Elyazgi asked about Fire Department costs of the vehicles being replaced versus the new purchases. Deputy Chief Bailey said that a Quint Engine unit #25 is going out of service and this was one of the cheaper trucks. We save \$50,000 to \$75,000 by buying cheaper fleet, but the use life is less, about a third less (5 years) than the more expensive fleet.

Police Report

Lieutenant Shattuck gave the monthly Community Oriented Policing (COP) update. There were 649 COP hours.

Hiring for the 52nd Police Academy begins in September. We have changed the physical testing process. If injuries occur they have a second chance to test again.

A new program starting this July is the Junior Police Academy. It is two weeks long and it is for 7th, 8th and 9th graders. Topics covered include safety of firearms, bicycles and traffic, self- defense and criminal investigations.

The annual Shred-a-Thon is on May 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and includes a pharmaceutical take back and ammunition drop off. Also includes a Car Fit Event for senior citizens.

On April 17th there was a Block Captain's meeting in the Council Chambers. Twenty-four people attended. Discussed nextdoor.com website for neighbors to communicate. We will do this again next year.

Safety Town starts in June for 2nd grade age children.

Chair Sims asked what the number of initial applicants was. Chief Humphrey said around 120 which is up 25% from last year. If a person fails a physical from an injury, they have one more chance to come back and re-take the physical. Ninety applicants are going thru the interview process right now.

Mayor Rosenthal – I have circulated names for vacant committee member positions to Council and those vacancies should be filled at the May 27th Council meeting.

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ITEM 4, being:

DISCUSSION OF THE PSST II PRIORITY EXPENDITURE PLAN INCLUDING FUTURE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS

The PSST II priority plan was included in member packets.

Chair Sims – concerned about replacing fire apparatus while building the EOC/Dispatch facility. Discussed possible financing for those so we can cash flow for the replacement of fire apparatus on a pay-as-you-go basis. The last of the fire equipment will be purchased in 6-7 years.

Member Allen – Asked if the new communication center will be a completely separate facility and if so, is there a need for a 3rd facility?

Chief Humphrey – We need to have a hardened facility to provide uninterrupted service and NIMS (National Incident Management System) approved. A new communication system cannot fit into the current facility. There is no way or place to put the new EOC/Dispatch facility in the Smalley Center.

Member Allen– Concerned with increasing overhead costs from one building to three buildings.

Chair Sims - Explained that the current communication facility is too close to the railroad tracks. Trains carry hazardous material every day.

Chief Humphrey - The new EOC/Dispatch facility has to be at least a mile and a half away from the railroad tracks. We are actively looking for land for the new center.

Bailey - Hopefully we can build on currently existing City owned land.

Chair Sims – Hopefully the location chosen will have room to expand in the future as the City grows.

Member Allen – Agrees. We want to build a building that could be built-out for forty years. Asked about the year 2019 on the expenditure plan - it seems that adding two communication officers in 2019 is too far away.

Francisco - It was explained that the 2019 fiscal year begins July 1, 2018. The EOC/Dispatch facility has to be built first before new officers can be hired. It will take one year to design the facility and another year to build it.

Member Allen – Can we have the employees hired now for overtime and holiday leave purposes?

Chief Humphrey – We currently don't have the physical space for additional employees at the current facility, but we are working on it.

Chair Sims – Lance the Emergency Communications Supervisor gives notifications. There have been recent instances where not enough staff was available.

Chief Humphrey - We are also looking at new ways to modify the dispatch system. Having call-takers versus communication officers for example.

Chair Sims – Will the new CAD help with the workload?

Chief Humphrey – Yes, it will help, but the CAD is not the complete answer. It will help us be more efficient.

Chair Sims – Is there a way that if there are those kinds of situations where staff is lacking that the Committee gets notified? To see if there is something we can address to the City Manager or

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Council about the priority of additional staffing. Can the Committee receive those reports as well to ensure the situation is not getting worse.

The Committee agreed these reports would help.

Member Elyazgi – Looking at the SRO program – I thought we would have them sooner than fiscal year 2017.

Chief Humphrey – We will start hiring them during the September 2015 Academy.

Mayor Rosenthal– PSST II funding doesn't start until October 2015. It is important that we follow best practices for the school resource officers. .

Chief Humphrey – We already have two candidates for the SRO Supervisor position. The Norman Public Schools and the City of Norman will have a collaborative relationship. We have a two year window to get an exact plan down. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the City and the Norman Public School System is still being worked on.

Chair Sims – Is Little Axe going to be included in the SRO program?

Chief Humphrey – There is an interest from them to be a part of the SRO program. We will be having future meetings with them to discuss this.

Member Lucas – What is the deadline on the MOU?

Chief Humphrey – We have a draft right now and it is an ongoing process.

Member Lucas – Are we going to spend down the leftover money from the PSST I ?

Francisco – Yes, a resolution was passed to use any leftover funds from the PSST I to go towards paying down the amount we have to spend on the communication system. The projection now is about \$10.5 million toward that system that would need to be paid down and would reduce the amount we would have to bond.

Fleet replacements were also discussed.

Member Lucas - The expenditure plan does not include the entire list of fleet replacements, just those funded with PSST funds. Some Police and Fire fleet replacements are being paid out of the Capital Fund too.

Chair Sims - At the next meeting with the new Committee members, could staff give an orientation or synopsis of how the PSST works and how the capital funding process works and how the PSST is integrated.

Member Allen – Asked how many vehicles would be replaced.

Francisco – said about two million dollars per year is spent on fleet replacements out of the Capital Fund. The Police and Fire Departments have to compete with all the other departments for funding.

Chief Humphrey – Next fiscal year we are replacing seven PSST patrol vehicles bought in the first round of the PSST that were purchased in 2008.

Mayor Rosenthal – The priority for leftover PSST I funds is to be used on the most critical needs and projects. The new communication system is the most critical and the number one priority that these funds will be used on.

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Item 5, being:

DISCUSSION OF SHORT-TERM BOND FINANCING

Francisco - When we purchase the emergency communication system, there will need to be some type of financing because there will not be enough money from the PSST II to fund all the needs.

We can look at lease/purchase system, revenue bonds, COP's (certificates of participation). All of this will be determined at a later date and projections right now show there will be a 7-8 year financing.

Member Elyazgi – Are there any federal grants for emergency communication system?

Chief Humphrey – No, none exist, we have searched. Most grants are for personnel instead of equipment. There was some grant funding for the CAD/RMS system.

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Item 6, being:

DISCUSSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE AND PARAMETERS OF BEING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Rosenthal – Some advisory committees get tasks from Council. This group will continue to be the voice for monitoring PSST, and be asked for input and feedback. Council might ask for the Committee's recommendation on future topics. The Committee could initiate a task for staff and/or Council to look at too. The oversight responsibility of the Committee is important – too oversee that the PSST funds are being spent on what it was supposed to be and that the program is on track.

Member Allen – The SRO program was discussed about five years ago and now we have the TEAM concept in the schools and we are getting SROs in the next few years. We are making progress towards this and have accomplished this.

Member Lucas – Concerned that the current SROs in the schools will be fired when the new City of Norman officers are added.

Member Allen – We initially wanted additional safety in the schools, not necessarily replace the current SROs. The current SROs will have a year and a half to look for jobs or should have opportunities to stay at the schools in some capacity.

Chair Sims - There are currently five SROs and the schools should keep them thru the second year. We will replace these five with six City of Norman officers. This concern will be discussed. We should request that maybe the current SROs be kept at same level or at lesser profile schools.

We request the Legal Department's perspective in the future about our role.

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Item 7, being:

ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR NEXT AGENDA IN JUNE

June meeting will be held at the new Norman Investigations Center (NIC) on Lindsey. New member orientation, update on the MOU and have legal re-visit the role of the Committee. The tour of the new facility will take 30-45 minutes. So, have the new member orientation at the meeting in July.

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ITEM 7, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Member Wilson – Discussed the schools' tornado plans. The schools brought in FEMA to investigate safety of facilities for tornados. Some schools have changed their tornado plans. If there is advanced notice given about a tornado approaching, then Jackson school will have a fleet of buses to pick up the students and faculty and take them to Alcott middle school.

Is there current interaction or consultation with Fire or Police to help clear the way in order to maneuver kids during this situation?

Bailey – not the best idea to get in any vehicle. There is currently no consultation with the schools.

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ITEM 8, being:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Member Elyazgi to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Member Allen; a vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS:

Members Keith Allen, Malaka Elyazgi, Steve Lucas, James Wheatley, David Wilson, Chair Eddie Sims

NAYES:

None

Chair Sims declared the motion to adjourn is approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.