



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
1000 N Ballas Road  
Des Peres, MO 63131  
January 18, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present:                   Commissioner Chair ..... Larry Beermann  
                                  Commissioner ..... Robert Ashcraft  
                                  Commissioner ..... Caitie Zimmerman  
                                  Chief ..... Eric Hall  
                                  Captain ..... Sean Quinn  
                                  Captain ..... Dale Fiala  
                                  Support Lieutenant ..... Vicki Severs

Not Present:             Commissioner ..... Matt McGrath (absent with excuse)  
                                  Aldermanic Representative ..... Sean Concagh (absent with excuse)  
                                  Administrative Asst. .... Monica Llorian (absent with excuse)

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Chair Beermann opened the meeting. Chief Hall commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner McGrath, Alderman Concagh and Administrative Asst. Llorian were not present.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chief Hall requested to table the approval of minutes to the next meeting.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Alderman Concagh was not present. Chief Hall advised that the proposed Chipotle Restaurant at the former Noodles and Co site is still under consideration pending a traffic circulation study.

## **BUDGET**

### **2020 Budget Update**

Chief Hall advised that the department attempted to hold down spending during 2020. He stated that the following accounts were over budget: workers compensation, overtime, vehicle maintenance, medical supplies, and communications.

The department does have some 2020 expenditures outstanding and will present a final budget review to the commission at the February meeting.

### **2021 Budget Overview**

Chief Hall advised that the department does not have much fiscal activity in the 2021 operations budget at this point.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Hall advised that the proposed outsourcing of all dispatch services to the City of Kirkwood is moving forward.

Chief Hall provided a history of the department's dispatch services and prior analysis of the center operations and outsourcing. This included when the department was initially involved in the West Central Dispatch Centers (WCDC) discussion which currently provides police dispatching services for Town and Country, Frontenac, Creve Coeur, and they also recently added Ladue. During the initial discussions when WCDC was created the city had concerns consisting of the remote monitoring of prisoners and not have the lobby open to the public 24/7 where they are greet by a department employee.

The Board of Alderman directed the department to review the options of outsourcing dispatch and any potential cost savings. Chief Hall stated that he began to contact agencies mid-year in 2020 but did not get a lot of feedback from any of the identified centers most likely due to the COVID pandemic. Chief Hall then re contacted the centers in the fall (of 2020) and was able to obtain initial information from the following centers:

- St Louis County – advised they were not taking on any new clients, primarily due to the current CAD system. St. Louis County is concerned that when their CAD system is

transitioned to a new system they will have a loss of data and want to limit that liability and loss. In addition, St. Louis County will not monitor our station security cameras or complete clerical support functions.

- Ballwin- currently dispatchers for both Ballwin and Manchester. Ballwin indicated they will complete some clerical support functions but will not hold prisoners or monitor our station security cameras.
- West Central (WCDC) – WCDC indicated they would complete some clerical support functions however each agency is responsible for monitoring their own prisoner holding cells. WCDC estimated the first year price of \$425,000 which included a \$75,000 buy in, and after year one the price would be approximately \$350,000 annually.
- Kirkwood - Kirkwood indicated they would hold our prisoners, monitor our station security camera's, and complete some clerical support functions. The initial cost from Kirkwood was approximately \$190,000 per with a step increase every year for five (5) years. Kirkwood currently provides our Fire & EMS dispatching services. The city estimated that the savings in the first year would be \$240,000 and then annually closer to \$340,000.

Chief Hall also added the following discussion points:

- As part of the agreement our dispatchers will be given preference for positions with Kirkwood and all of our current dispatchers have indicated they want to stay on until the transition to Kirkwood which is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2021. The City of Glendale recently contracted with Kirkwood for police and fire dispatching services and had to transition sooner than expected due to loss of staff.
- In preliminary discussions Kirkwood indicated that we will remain on our own radio channel as we are today and also we will look jointly at a new CAD system (with Kirkwood) for both police and fire dispatching. This will be an additional cost to the department.
- The plan is to maintain two (2) records clerks to assist with clerical support functions and staff the public lobby. One clerk would work days and one would work afternoons.
- Both cities attorneys are reviewing the proposal.

As part of the discussion Commissioner Ashcraft

- Concerned if this change would affect our CALEA accreditation.

Chief Hall stated that Kirkwood's dispatch is not CALEA accredited but their police department is accredited (through CALEA similar to ours). This will not affect our accreditation as our dispatch center is also not accredited.

- Where will non-emergency calls go?

Chief Hall stated the clerks will answer the main business line but will have to transfer any emergency calls to Kirkwood (if it is police or fire related incident). Chief Hall added the department may need to clarify the emergency and non-emergency lines of the department, where the emergency line goes straight to Kirkwood.

- How will vacation checks work, How to sign up and cancel them?

Chief Hall stated that he will look into this further but believes that it will work as it does today. Commission Ashcraft added that if someone returns in the middle of the night how will the resident communicate that to the department. Chief Hall added that they can call Kirkwood or request to speak to an officer or leave a message for a member of the command staff.

- Will Public Safety still have a parking lot exchange point?

Chief Hall advised the station cameras will remain in place and record as it is today. The department will move monitors around so the clerks have access and also add a monitor near the supervisor desk.

- How easy would it be to switch back to our own dispatch if this doesn't work?

Chief Hall added that it could be difficult to restart of dispatch operations. For example, while the county wide tax supports the communication network will the department be granted back the necessary equipment for dispatch operations. In addition, it may be difficult to recruit prospective employees.

Commissioner Ashcraft went on record to say he does not support outsourcing dispatch and this may lead to an increase in outsourcing vital services across the city. He thinks the cuts should come from non-essential functions such as recreation and parks.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CALEA Update:**

The department new large evidence storage cage for the garage is on order. This was a recommended improvement area identified during our last accreditation review.

### **New Hire Update:**

Our newest officer, Robert Rourke, who currently works for St Louis County has accepted our conditional offer of employment. Mr. Rourke will be scheduled for his psychological and medical evaluations next week.

The department rescinded the offer of employment to our last candidate due to him failing to successfully complete the requirements of the offer.

Our other new officer, Clinton Cashen, is currently attending rapid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) school. The school is 30 hours a week and Cashen has been working 10 hours a week at

the department. This time at the department has included policy review, firearms, and defensive tactics. PSO Wadsack will be training Cashen and temporarily transfer to the mall during the field training. PSO Garibay will be transferred to B-Shift during this time (to replace Wadsack).

**New Schedule Update:**

The new schedule concept will begin on Monday, January 25 and each shift has had training sessions related to the changes along with the new administrative guidelines that are in place during the trial.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked if the additional bunk room has been set up. Chief Hall advised it has not due to the bed being on back order but the bunk room will be in place by the time the additional officer is added to each shift.

**Discussion:**

Chief Hall would like to add a summary of department operations under discussion for each commission meeting moving forward. This would afford the opportunity for each member of the command staff to present an item to the commission and answer any questions.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked about public safety staff getting the COVID vaccine. Chief Hall stated he is trying to get clarification from the St. Louis County Health Department and/or Office of Emergency Management on the exact time line. Some hospital employees, such as employees at Mercy have been getting the vaccine and any leftover doses were passed on to fire agencies under Mercy's Medical Control. The department was tentatively scheduled to receive the vaccine the first week of February and hope to have an update this week.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Lt Vicki Severs 174  
Lt Vicki Severs

ATTEST:

Bob Ashcraft

Bob Ashcraft, Commissioner