

*Held***June 22, 2010****OPENING OF WORK SESSION**

Mr. Deters called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. Mr. Ritter, Mr. Wolterman, and Mrs. Harlow were in attendance.

Mr. Deters said the purpose of the work session was to hear a presentation about and discuss the fire levy.

Mr. Deters turned the meeting over to Fire Chief Bruce Smith.

Chief Smith said they would show a slide presentation. He introduced the other Fire Department staff in attendance: Deputy Chief Joe Silvati, Assistant Chief Rick Niehaus, EMS Division Chief Greg Brown, and Training Division Chief Allen Walls.

Chief Smith said the presentation would cover a department overview, unique department features, specific challenges, relevant standard and protocols, risk and sacrifice, and justification for the levy.

The department overview included demographics (182 uniformed personnel) and statistics (average of 25 calls per day) and operations (five advanced life support (ALS) engine companies, one ladder company, one heavy rescue company, four ALS transport units, and two ALS chase units).

Division Chief Brown spoke about the EMS runs and the types of runs they see on a regular basis. They transported 67.4% of the 6206 responses. He said the aging of the population of the township is a consideration. The 21- to 60-year-old category is reducing as the 61-year-old and older category is increasing. A larger number of the 61-year-old and older category patients are Advanced Life Support runs, which require a higher level of service.

Chief Brown spoke about the increase in the run volume since 1997. There has been a steady increase from 6598 runs in 1997 to 9195 in 2009.

Mr. Wolterman asked about the benefit for responding in less than six minutes. Chief Brown said that for instances of a cardiac emergency, a six minute response time greatly increases the patient's chances of survival. That is the national benchmark from the American Heart Association. Chief Smith said that it will never be financially reasonable or practical to provide every response in less than six minutes.

Chief Smith discussed some specific challenges, including multiple simulations calls and run volume.

Chief Walls presented a situation within a five-and-a-half-hour timeframe, with 12 calls and 23 units. Chief Smith said this is an every-day occurrence for them. It is a "shell game" when multiple events occur and units must cross districts.

Mr. Deters asked if we are in the middle of the agreements and if we are giving more help or receiving it. Chief Smith said that it is reciprocal and balanced. Mr. Wolterman asked if the response times include mutual aid calls. Chief Smith said, yes, those are included.

Chief Smith discussed the future.

- Conversion of positions from part-time to full-time
- Apparatus replacement
- Station replacement
- Additional transport unit

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- Basic Life Support vs. Advanced Life Support
- ISO rating
- Accreditation
- Additional funding

Chief Smith compared Colerain Township to several other communities, by population, budget, cost per citizen and total runs.

Chief Smith said that almost all police agencies are 100% full-time employees, where as only five fire departments in Hamilton County are 100% full-time employees. Like in Colerain Township, it is typically a mixture of full-, part-, and volunteer-firefighters.

Chief Smith discussed the department's budget. He said the income is typically flat. He said we must build up execs in the first half of the levy period to make ends meet in the second half. The impact of a short-fall with the levy income is service cuts. He said a levy renewal, with operations at today's level will end up with short-fall of \$2,000,000 by the end of 2012. He offered some operational scenarios: current operational level or current operational levels with conversions from part-time to full-time.

Mr. Wolterman asked if it is appropriate because of the aging of the populations. He also said the income estimates could be off because of a new development, re-evaluations and delinquent taxes.

Chief Smith said that we may realize this income, but we're trying to be conservative and responsible in the estimates.

Chief Smith discussed the benefits of full-time firefighters. He said with part-timers, we have turn-over to other agencies and then loose that level of experience and ability to function at higher levels. It concerns him to have three fairly "green" crew members being sent to a dangerous situation. Chief Smith said there is a blend that will allow the tax dollars go further. He would like convert 10 full-time employees.

Chief Brown said that they have a 6% increase each year in run volume, but he is not sure how that will play out with ages and health conditions.

Mr. Wolterman said that our diversity is also increasing and we are seeing more trauma induced runs.

The Board discussed the department's cash balances. They have \$6.4 million in unencumbered cash, as of end of May.

Mr. Wolterman said it costs the department about a million dollars a month to operate.

Mr. Ritter said a renewal is a lunacy. It would be foolish and irresponsible. He is in favor of some increment. Currently, we have a 4.34 mill levy 5 year levy, expires in 2010.

Chief Smith said that we have three options:

- Renewal with no addition
- Renewal plus new levy (with or without conversions)
- Replacement levy (with or without conversions)

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Mr. Foglesong presented several funding options, for discussion purposes only.

The group decided on some action items;

- Be sure valuations are correct, especially for Northgate Mall and Duke Energy
- Recommendation on contingency (end of year cash balances)
- One scenario should be a base-line
- One scenario should have a new active EMS unit.
- One scenario should have the career conversions
- Combine scenarios into one?

Mr. Deters asked about the EMS billing. Chief Brown said it is an unpredictable funding stream.

Mr. Deters said that we must look at the cash balances and be responsible with those funds.

Mr. Ritter suggested \$2-5 million and that it has been too high in the past.

Mr. Ritter said the \$100,000 contingency could be removed.

Mr. Deters said the second item is a budget process discussion.

Mr. Ritter said he is in favor of giving the trustees more capability on the allocation of resources. He said that he reviewed the memo from the department heads to the trustees, listing 3-5% in cost savings initiatives in 2011, least invasive to most invasive. He said we should be stretching and raising the bar with the department heads as thought leaders.

Mr. Wolterman said that we should set the expectations and levels of service and let the departments tell us what resources are needed. 3% is an arbitrary number. Need to provide expectations. There is a greater need for more bodies and more presence. Need to have greater police presence. Chief Meloy's budget can't withstand any decreases. We should set the service level and let the department heads come back. Looking at demands for safety services, matter of presence. Chief Meloy should be looking at adding officers and letting us know what it will cost. Make a decision based on that number. That's our decision. We've not had a road levy in ten years and we're giving citations for their homes and the road is terrible. We must establish a level of service and if we don't want a levy, then how will we accomplish that goal. All department heads are looking at alternative means.

Mr. Deters said that saying you must cut is different than showing creative financing and creative cuts.

Mr. Wolterman has a problem when we tell them to cut but don't tell the expectation of services.

Mr. Deters suggested creating a range.

Mr. Foglesong said that statements of efficiency are fine, but budgets are heavy on personnel costs. There is not a lot of room.

Mr. Ritter said he wants the creative ideas.

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Minutes of

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Mr. Deters said there is some consensus and would like to show residents these initiatives.

Mr. Wolterman asked about the expectation of the board. Do we agree that we want to deliver the same services in 2010 in 2011 and we don't want any additional personnel, or justify, and look to cut 3% and still deliver those services?

Mr. Deters said the department heads should think about initiatives to save.

Mr. Ritter said the current service levels are not a sacred cow. We have declining revenues in several areas like the local government fund.

Mr. Wolterman said that this the first time he has heard that Mr. Ritter wants to cut services.

Mr. Ritter said we are setting a target and giving them a goal to function.

Mr. Foglesong suggested the Board schedule a public hearing for Zoning case ZA 2010-01 on July 13, 2010 at 8:30 p.m. as part of the Trustee meeting scheduled for that date.

Mr. Wolterman made such motion and Mr. Ritter offered the second. The roll was called:

- Mr. Deters. "Aye"
- Mr. Ritter. "Aye"
- Mr. Wolterman. "Aye"

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 PM, Mr. Wolterman made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and Mr. Ritter offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

- Mr. Deters. "Aye"
- Mr. Ritter. "Aye"
- Mr. Wolterman. Absent.

Mr. Deters reconvened the meeting at 8:39 PM and said no decisions or actions were made in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, at 8:40 PM, Mr. Wolterman motioned for adjournment. Mr. Ritter offered a second.

- Mr. Deters. "Aye"
- Mr. Ritter. "Aye"
- Mr. Wolterman. "Aye"


Fiscal Officer


Trustee


Trustee

Trustee