

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fogt at 5:05 p.m.

Members Present: Deb Groat, Tracy Richardson, Dan Fogt

Others Present: Terry Emery, Chief Riley, Chief Golden, Jenny Chavarria

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting on March 9, 2015 were approved.

Agenda:

Police Personnel: Mr. Emery said when we were going through the 2014 budget process, Chief Golden had come before us to talk about the need for additional personnel in the Police Department. Mr. Emery said we actually had personnel requests from a couple different departments, but we chose not to put them in the budget because of some concerns with HB5 and the potential impacts it could have. We also wanted to wait until the end of the year to see how our finances were. Mr. Emery said having done both and gotten through our time period, Chief Golden has again approached Mayor Gore and myself about this need and we feel that there is real value to this need. He said Ms. Chavarria is here to add input on how we are comfortable handling this financially.

Chief Golden said the population of the City of Marysville in 2004 was 16,949 and approximately 11 years later the population now is 22,051. At this point the number of sworn officers is only 4 more than we had 11 years ago with about a 30% population increase. He said we are really looking at the type of crimes we are having now. We had three investigators back in 2004. Currently, we have three investigators and a detective sergeant. We took one of our patrol sergeants and put him in investigations, which left us with only two detectives. Chief Golden said, as you know, the Sheriff and the Union County Prosecutors office have a Drug Task Force, and we would like to be more proactive. The Sheriff has suggested for one of our detectives to be fulltime on the task force. Right now, Detective McGlenn splits his time between major crimes and the Drug Task Force, and the Sheriff's Office has a similar situation. He said it really limits what we can do with the task force.

Chief Golden said in order to have a full-time Drug Task Force person, we recently took one of our patrol officers and put him in investigations, which technically gives us four investigators. However, one will be just on the Drug Task Force once he is trained. He said last year, the three investigators handled 249 cases. This was almost a 25% increase from what they did the previous year. He said his intention is to get the police personnel to the strength where we can add another investigator that will handle major crimes, and other cases that need investigated. He said before he can add an additional detective, he needs to add an additional patrol officer. He said what he is asking for is another patrol officer. Chief Golden said the reason they cannot just take a patrol officer and put him in

investigations without a replacement is because our calls for service over the last 10 years have increased from 12,000 in 2004 to nearly 17,000 in 2014. A call for service can be anything from a parking complaint to a homicide. We had nearly 17,000 calls for a police department that has only 33 sworn officers, and three of which are command staff.

He said with our dispatching center, we have six full-time dispatchers, one of whom is a full-time dispatch supervisor, who also covers shifts. The dispatchers on average for a 24 hour day will have approximately 84 contacts with people either by phone or in person. He said most of those are from the time period of 8:00am to 8:00pm. He said during that time, we want to have two dispatchers on a majority of the time. He said part of the reason is that the dispatchers act as receptionists for the police department and also act as records clerks. Chief Golden said if we only have one dispatcher and someone comes in from outside, we run the risk of having poor customer service because they would be standing outside the window waiting and there is also the chance that the dispatcher will miss a call on the radio. He said it is important to have someone always sitting at the desk and not running back and forth to the window. He said the midnight shift is not a big deal, we can get along with one dispatcher, but we really need to have two dispatchers on from 8:00am to midnight. Chief Golden said if we have someone who has a lengthy sick leave, it burns the dispatchers. Our dispatch supervisor handles calls but also has supervisor responsibilities. He said it is hard to train people, evaluate people and listen to radio traffic on the recorder if you are sitting at the desk. We have been fortunate that our dispatch supervisor has been working four 10 hour days for the last couple of years, so she could supervise that way.

Chief Golden said there are other things that we would like to do in the Police Department. We only have one school resource officer who is working at the high school. He said back in 2004, we had two school resource officers and they were funded by the school. When the school had difficulties the City took over one for the high school. He said what he would like to do in the future or even next year is to have another resource officer or at least the manpower so we can have at least one person who is not assigned to at least one school, who can rotate through the schools throughout the day as a security presence. He said we have one resource officer and one DARE officer who is a full-time patrol officer but he teaches DARE during the day. When he is not teaching DARE he is on the road. A person like that could be moved into the position where he would do DARE part of the day and school resource the rest, but we would need someone to take his place on patrol.

He said we have talked about having a full-time community services officer. He said this person would take over the neighborhood watch programs, some of the school programs and if we had difficulties in certain areas, that person would be the contact for that area and would go handle things as well as being a patrol officer.

Chief Golden said some of the things the communication department does is accept bail bonds for Municipal Court after hours and on weekends and holidays. That is something they did 92 times in 2014. They also provide copies of crash reports and incident reports, process vacation house watch forms, interact with prosecutors and defense attorneys,

monitor 83 video cameras. There is going to be an additional 20 cameras sometime in the near future with a lot at Partners Park.

Chief Golden said we would like to hire one patrol officer and one full-time dispatcher. He said the yearly cost for that would be \$106,036.64. He said the earliest we would like to fill those positions is June 1st, so we would not be looking at that entire salary this year.

Chief Golden said another thing he would like to include for discussion is uptown parking. He said many years ago there were parking meters. We took the parking meters down. He said he would like to see a part-time parking control officer. He said it would be a civilian person and part-time position around \$10.00 per hour. He said it makes more sense for a part-time person to go around and check those instead of a full-time police officer. The same officer that goes out and marks the vehicles is the same officer you need to go back out and who check for the marks. So that officer will be tied up for a few hours. He said that is not something he is asking for right now but would like to discuss. Mr. Emery said we are going to look into this a little bit further. He said we have received a lot of concerns about people parking uptown who often leave their vehicle. Mr. Emery said it is something that needs to be monitored on a regular basis. He said we want to look at options and that an individual doing this would probably be more reasonable than purchasing all the equipment.

Mr. Fogt said his opinion is let Partners Park get finished, and let the parking availability be known to the community and let the parking get readjusted. Parking in the winter time gets really bad.

Mrs. Groat said years ago tickets were written but were never paid. She told Mr. Emery if he is going to address this tomorrow morning let them know that we are going to be enforcing this. She said this was before the parking meters were removed.

Chief Golden said the parking meters were removed before he was here. Mrs. Groat said she knows but we had a reputation for not enforcing them. Chief Golden said the parking tickets are a civil complaint, they do not go through Municipal Court. Mrs. Groat asked where they go. Chief Golden said they go through the Finance Department, they have a committee called Parking Violations Bureau. He said if someone denies the ticket then we have to set up an administrative hearing. He said if it goes through Municipal Court, we have to prove that the person who owns the car parked the car. Civilly, it is just that the car is parked there and you are the registered owner and you are responsible for it. Chief Golden said there are a couple of ordinances that could be reviewed to update how they are going to be paid. He said our procedure now is that if they are not going to pay it within the 10 day period, then his administrative assistant sends the people letters. The letters let them know that they did not take care of it within the 10 days and that the fine has doubled and that they need to take care of it. He said we have had a good experience with this process.

Mrs. Groat asked Chief Golden how many officers we had in 2004 when the population was 17,000. Chief Golden said in 2004, we had 29 full-time sworn in officers. Mrs. Richardson asked whether we have 33 now? Mr. Emery answered yes.

Mrs. Richardson said she wants to change the parking discussion a little bit. One concern she has is there might be a counter-productive portion to this. In other words, she sees the business side where businesses want to attract people, so we want to make sure that people are not parking too long, which would prevent spaces from freeing up. She said the flipside to that is if we are too aggressive about enforcement then people might be dissuaded from parking uptown, because people do not want to be harassed. Mr. Emery said we will not start being aggressive on this, we will start out with warnings, just stating that you violated the two hour time limit. Chief Golden said we had information put on the upcoming utility bills that gives the description for uptown parking. He said last Friday we did the Marysville Matters on the radio show and he mentioned it. He said we sent an officer out one day last week to walk up Main Street to mark tires, and he actually went in and talked with businesses and explained what we were doing and asked that their employees not park on the street uptown.

Mrs. Groat said we should definitely add more officers to keep up with where we were in 2004.

Mr. Emery said we feel very comfortable asking for the additional officer and dispatcher. He said we are going to keep a very close eye on our finances and how things are going, but there is a very good chance that next year we would want to pursue a full-time community service officer and a part-time parking control officer. Mr. Emery said rather than add all of this at one time, we would like to gradually add according to the needs that are coming forward.

Mr. Emery said regarding the cameras, you will find that over time there is a critical need to have a couple people in dispatch, since we are watching a lot more areas with the cameras. He said a good example will be Partners Park which will be closely monitored.

Mrs. Richardson said a future agenda item might be to talk a little bit more about those cameras. Mrs. Richardson said she had a couple of questions with regard to our plans. She said it looks like we were planning in 2015 or our tentative plan was to hire at least one in 2015, right? She said in the strategic workforce plan, she was hoping to get one more officer. Mrs. Richardson asked if we budgeted for this in 2015. Mr. Emery and Ms. Chavarria answered no. Mr. Emery said it came forth in his preliminary budget, however, we removed it as we did with all personnel requests to be cautious going into the new year. He said we did not know the impact of HB5 or how we were going to end the year. Mrs. Richardson said it looks like you were potentially looking at two dispatchers, and clarified that Chief Golden was now only asking for one. Chief Golden explained that it was just one. Mrs. Richardson said overall this is not new information, this is information that we had hoped for as a leadership team. Looking at PD/Court Security, \$80,000 per year was first projected to new building security and it was met by contract service at \$30,000. Mrs. Richardson asked whether the cameras are the private security that you are

referring to. Chief Golden said no, it is the private security company that is manning the metal detector at the entrance of the building. He said had we hired City personnel it would have cost a great amount more.

Mrs. Richardson said in summary, you are looking at one patrol officer and one dispatcher. She said the only other question is whether from June to December we can somehow fund this. Ms. Chavarria said yes, we will need to do an additional appropriation. She said our income tax is trending about 15% more than this time last year. She said there is no difficulty in funding the additional personnel. Mr. Emery said maybe if Safety Committee is ok with this, he would suggest the Safety Committee at the next Council meeting, through Mr. Fogt as Chairman, can make a recommendation to the rest of Council. Mr. Emery said what we plan to do is bring legislation as we have done in the past. He said we are fine in the budget right now, but this fall we would need to bring legislation forward to accommodate the additional funds necessary for this. Ms. Chavarria said she would bring it forward with the request for additional funds that she does in the summer and fall. Mr. Emery said if you want to make sure that the rest of Council is comfortable, Mr. Fogt could report at next meeting that the Safety Committee has met and Chief Golden presented the idea of adding an officer and dispatcher and presented a valid case.

Mr. Fogt asked if it has to be an agenda item to be approved by Council. Mr. Emery said he already checked on this. He said there is nothing that we need to put together ordinance wise, but we would need Council to appropriate the money to cover it. He said we already have the money to cover this until Ms. Chavarria normally brings her clean-up ordinance, and then we would ask for an additional \$60,000, and Chief Golden would just add it to his budget for 2016. Mr. Emery said he is open to however Safety Committee would like to handle this, and Mayor Gore is very comfortable with this idea. He would like to make sure other Council members are aware.

Mrs. Groat asked Chief Golden if there is ever a time Sunday through Saturday night, in a 24 hour period, that you have less than two officers on duty; one to support the other. Chief Golden answered no. Mr. Emery asked what the minimum staffing is. Chief Golden said it is not set, but by normal practice it is three. Mrs. Groat said whatever we could do to get this in front of Council to get the money now is good. Mr. Emery said we could put together a synopsis of what Chief Golden talked about tonight and give to Mr. Fogt as Chair of Safety Committee that he could basically read on what Chief Golden presented tonight. Mr. Fogt said he is not going to be at the next Council meeting.

Chief Golden said this will get us through until the end of this year, and we have discussed this with Mr. Dostanko and we are just waiting on the funding.

Mr. Fogt asked if anyone had an objection with adding one officers and one dispatcher. Mrs. Groat and Mrs. Richardson both said they were in support of adding the officer and dispatcher.

Mrs. Richardson said she has two concerns with the first being the recurring cost, and to first demonstrate a compelling need, and Chief Golden has come to us with a compelling need. The second component is whether we can afford the compelling need? She thinks that is something that should be answered by the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Richardson said in her perspective, based on what Chief Golden has told us and the strategic workforce plan, that he has demonstrated that the City has a compelling need for the personnel. She said the question remains can we sustain the recurring cost of additional personnel. Mr. Fogt said he does not think we can afford not to sustain. Mr. Emery said he can add an item to the agenda for Finance Committee since they meet tomorrow. He can add this to the Finance Committee agenda and let them know that we have the full support of the Safety Committee. Mrs. Richardson said absolutely.

Mrs. Groat moved that we present to Finance Committee then directly on to Council the opportunity to hire another dispatcher and another road officer, and it be done at the earliest convenience. All were in favor of this motion.

Mr. Emery said if Finance Committee agrees, since we have three different Council members, six members would have agreed to support the additional staffing needs. He said he can call Mr. Taylor (the seventh member) and give him a briefing. He said it might not be something that we would bring to council until we bring forth the legislation in late summer.

Mr. Fogt said he would like to have legislation that states we are going to hire. It is just cleaner to him. Mr. Emery said that Ms. Chavarria can bring the legislation in the late summer and that is all that is necessary, but if you want she could bring it now. Mrs. Groat asked could that seventh person attend tomorrow night as a member of the public not as a voting. Mr. Emery said he would check with Mr. Taylor to see if he is available.

Adjournment: Mr. Fogt adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.