

Public Safety Committee Meeting May 2, 2019

The Public Safety Committee met Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 5:30 pm in the Human Resources Office, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Kathy Wilcox, Ken Gardner and Jeff Erlenbusch. Committee Member John Uden was excused. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Dispatch Supervisor, Fire Chief Branden Stevens and Human Resources Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Committee Member Wilcox called the meeting to order.

1. Election of Chairperson

***Committee Member Erlenbusch nominated Committee Member Uden for Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee. Committee Member Gardner seconded the nomination.*

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved that nominations be closed, seconded by Committee Member Gardner.*

***On unanimous consent Committee Member Uden was elected Chairperson, 3-0.*

2. Request of Citizens

None

3. Committee Member Comments

Acting Chairperson Wilcox moved Item #5 ahead of Item #4 on the agenda.

4. Review and recommendation Discharge of Fireworks July 4th

Chief Stevens requested that if a Red Flag Warning was issued that the discharge of all fireworks be prohibited within the City limits. The committee agreed that this should be added to the resolution this year. There was discussion on the hazards of discharging fireworks in Denton Complex and the mess that is left for city employees to clean up the day following the 4th. Committee members discussed the possibility of the fireworks display moving out to the fairgrounds at the grand stand. This would allow people to sit in the grandstands to view the fireworks display. There was discussion on how the community of Laurel handled the discharge of fireworks. The committee requested that Recorder Wilkins get a copy of Laurel's resolution. The committee would contact the Mayor and see if he would contact the Fair Board and the VFW to see if this is a possibility. Committee Member Erlenbusch would get ahold of Keep America Beautiful to see if they would place more trash cans in the park.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to have the resolution go to council for discussion with the language changes made as discussed, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and **passed** unanimously; 3-0.*

Prior to reviewing the Miles City Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual, Chief Stevens and Dispatch Supervisor Anderson requested time to review with the Committee the changes to EMS dispatches. There will be three levels of medical calls. The level of the call will dictate the number of personnel and vehicles that will be dispatched to the call. Dispatchers will receive training on evaluating emergency calls for dispatch. The changes have been reviewed by the Medical Director and will go into effect June 1. There will be a few bumps in the beginning as dispatchers are trained. There will be discussion and an evaluation on how the new call system is working. The Committee appreciated the update.

5. Review and recommendation Miles City Police Department Policy & Procedure Manual

Chief Colombik presented a copy of Resolution 3783 which included a contract for new police officers for reimbursement of training costs. He believes that it is vital to have this contract in place to help the department. He thought it was on the books, but would have the contract reviewed by City Attorney Rice.

***Committee Member Gardner moved to have the contract reviewed by the City Attorney and bring it back to committee, Committee Member Erlenbusch seconded and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The "Canine Policy" was reviewed. This is a new policy.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to approve the "Canine Policy", seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The "Taser X26-Electronic Control Device (ECD) Policy" revisions to target areas were reviewed.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to approve the revisions to the "Taser X26-Electronic Control Device (ECD) Policy", seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The "Weapons Policy" revision on page 2 #5 Off Duty/Back-up Guns was reviewed.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to approve the revision to the "Weapons Policy", seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The "Lost and Found Policy" revision of Item 2 Retention changed the number of days to hold an item from 90 days to three months was reviewed.

***Committee Member Gardener moved to approve the revision to the "Lost and Found Policy", seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch and passed by*

unanimous consent; 3-0.

The “Body Worn Cameras Policy” was simplified and revised to allow officers to record anything that they feel needs to be recorded and once the body camera is on it stays on.

***Committee Member Gardener moved to approve the revision to the “Body Worn Cameras Policy”, seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The “Social Media Policy” was reviewed. This is a new policy.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to approve the “Social Media Policy”, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The “Eyewitness Identification Policy” was reviewed. This policy comes from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and is one that is being followed by all agencies in Montana. This is a new policy.

***Committee Member Gardner moved to approve the “Eyewitness Identification Policy”, seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

The “Lineup Policy” was deleted from the Police Policy and Procedure Manual as the “Eyewitness Identification Policy” replaces it.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to delete the “Lineup Policy”, seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch and passed by unanimous consent; 3-0.*

6. Adjournment

The following meetings were scheduled for the Public Safety Committee:


May 16, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

June 20, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

***Committee Member Erlenbusch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Kathy Wilcox, Acting Chairperson


Linda Wilkins, Recorder