

Public Safety Committee Meeting February 2, 2021

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 6:00 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Ken Gardner, Elizabeth Patten, Kathy Wilcox and Austin Lott. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Police Captain Dan Baker, Mayor John Hollowell, Battalion Chief Sarah Lewin, Fire Captain Eddy Kanduch, Fire Captain Jake Richards, Fire Captain Taran Harbaugh, Fire Lt Casey Miller, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Council Members Rick Huber and Stacy Broell, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson, Dispatchers Andrew Meral and Jean Mansheim, 911 Board Members Rex Phipps, Ray Hageman, and Kevin Krausz AC/CE Officer Mark Winkley, City Building Inspector Russell Murphy, SDI Architect Brandon Janson and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Patten called the meeting to order.

1. Request of Citizens for Public Comment

None.

2. Staff Comments

None.

3. Committee Member Comments.

None

4. Discussion of Dispatch Center.

Dispatcher Meral discussed with the Committee a need for more dispatch staff due to the increase volume of calls coming through the Southeastern Montana Dispatch Center. This increase in call volume is affecting the morale of the staff and is not allowing them to complete other duties. He is concerned that the dispatch center is unprepared for a large disaster. Dispatcher Mansheim also expressed concerns regarding staffing in the dispatch center, and believes COVID pandemic has affected the dispatch center adversely. Dispatch Supervisor Anderson stated she has needed to step out on numerous occasions to assist with dispatching duties. 911 Board Member Phipps stated he's always glad to have the dispatchers on the other end of any ambulance calls he responds to. 911 Board Member Krausz thought that possibly looking at the concept of making dispatch an enterprise fund could be something that possibly should be looked at, Kalispell has done something similar to this. All stakeholders would pay dispatch for services and dispatch would be governed by the stakeholders. Supervisor Anderson stated the current issue is looking at employing one more full-time dispatcher to help support our community. Board Member Krausz pointed out that HB 50 the "911 Bill" at the Montana legislature is an attempt to skim funding off of 911 funds, he encouraged all to contact their representative to voice their disapproval of this measure. The next 911 board meeting in March 17th. The Public Safety Committee will be returning to this issue for a solution.

5. Report from Building Inspector regarding the Miles City Fire and Rescue Building.

Inspector Murphy is in the process of conducting an inspection of the Miles City Fire and Rescue Building. He reported to the committee some of his current findings:

- Truss system is compromised and cannot be saved
- Air filtration units - efficiency problem
- Living quarters are not framed correctly according to today's standards

- Issues with the backup generator
- Temporary living quarters - wastewater pipes not installed at the proper grade
- Mold issues
- If the roof were repaired the entire building would have to be brought up to code

He will be competing his inspection in the next week. The Public Safety Committee will be returning to this issue.

6. Woolhouse Gallery Updates on Acquisition and Demo.

Architect Jansen updated the committee on the progress of the Woolhouse building. An RFQ will need to go out for a contractor, this RFQ must be published 2x's, the earliest this could be back is March 26. The fire sprinkler system will only have to cover the basement, the upper level meets exit requirements. A flood survey is in the works. To meet floodplain requirements, two windows in the basement would need to be filled. The hazmat study is back and results were negative. A new HVAC system will be installed. Montana Code Annotated provides for general manager construction management (GM/GC) for public construction contracts. This would provide for a quicker turnaround time for the remodeling project. A committee would need to be formed as the review team.

***Committee Member Lott moved to recommend to city council the GM/GC process and the Public Safety Committee, the Mayor, the Police Chief and Captain Baker as the review team, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and passed unanimously 3-0.*

***At this point in the meeting there was no longer a quorum of committee members. ***

7. Discussion of Ambulance staffing and transfers relative to Holy Rosary.

There was brief discussion regarding ambulance transfers. Transfers fiscally help the ambulance service recoup costs. During the past year ½ of all transfers were turned down. Staffing has been an issue, there have been open positions, surgery, COVID, and the sheer volume of calls. This has created overtime for the department and staff are being taxed mentally and physically. This issue will be revisited.

8. Discussion of costs for Animal Impound Services.

Time ran out, this issue will be moved to a future Public Safety agenda

9. Adjournment

***Committee Member Gardner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Patten and passed unanimously, 2-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chairperson Elizabeth Patten

Recorder Linda Wilkins