

CITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 11, 2016

Alderman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

Voting Members Present: Mike Brownfield, Brian Butler, Tyler Gee

Other City officials present: Jim Culotta, Ed Papis, Jeff Stevens, Zach Bean

Residents: Steve Hullcraz, Paul Spiezio

Others: Central Illinois Emergency Response Team Commander, Lt. Joe Hartwig and CIERT Team Leader James Middlemas

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM: NONE
2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

Paul Spiezio asked for an update on the Dallas Road traffic enforcement effort. Chief Papis said WPD issued 37 warnings with 8 citations in June and 2 citations in July. Papis noted the results indicate the enforcement has accomplished its goal and the department has requests for enforcement in other areas that we must service. Mr. Spiezio said that people continue to speed the moment the police are gone and the speeding problem continues. Mr. T. Gee asked about input requested from Public Works related to a speed study and consideration of lowering the speed limit on Dallas to 25 M.P.H. Mr. Culotta said he believes the 85th percentile of speed is close to 35 M.P.H. and according to engineering standards as passed on by the Public Works Director, the data support raising the speed limit to 35 M.P.H. rather than lowering it, although the Director does not recommend that and has not completed a study to date. Mr. Butler said he also understands the road is a Federal Aid Urban Route and the Director is checking to see if that federal funding affects our right to adjust the speed limit. Butler also noted that he did not see a speed limit sign on the southbound portion of the road south of Westminster, and he believes a large portion of the southbound traffic may be coming out of the subdivision via that route. D.C. Stevens noted that reducing posted speed limits below the 85th percentile does not normally produce corresponding reductions in motorist speed. Mr. Butler said the reduced limit may increase resulting fines, which may adjust motorists' habits. Mr. Brownfield suggested consideration of speed bumps, which have been effective elsewhere. Chief Papis noted the department must end the additional enforcement based on the results and the amount of money spent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 20, 2016 MEETING: MOTION BY Mr. T. Gee, second by Mr. Brownfield. Minutes unanimously approved as submitted by D.C. Stevens.
4. BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - a. MONTHLY REPORT: Chief Papis noted there were not significant changes in the statistics, as increased traffic numbers were largely attributed to the Dallas Road detail. The increase in part II offenses noted by Mr. Gee was largely due to car burglaries,

which tend to occur in groups. The investigations report shows 3 current and active cases from June.

b. CIERT/ILEAS RIFLE:

Lt. Hartwig noted that Officer Bean is on the CIERT/ILEAS teams in a sniper position and most of that work does not involve firing a shot, but when that need arises, he must be able to complete it accurately and within a small window of opportunity. His equipment for doing so must be reliable as reasonably practical. The recommendation to replace the borrowed rifle which is at the end of its service life is based on these needs. Other communities are also expected to purchase and maintain equipment in consideration of the number of members on the team from that agency. For example, Pekin purchased a vehicle for about \$17,000 and they have 6 members on the teams. Tazewell County spent about \$4,000 on a less than lethal weapon. Peoria County purchased, among other things, 2 sniper rifles 20 years ago for about \$2,200 each. D.C. Stevens presented figures for ILEAS reimbursement for member training, which includes the regular or overtime salary of the training member and any backfill for that position necessitated by that training, which as of the penultimate June expense submission amounted to over \$6,000 in 2015 and over \$3,400 in 2016 for Officer Bean alone and over \$10,000 for three WPD CIERT / ILEAS members in 2016. Mr. Gee asked about CIERT member contributions to the group overall in terms of individual equipment. D.C. Stevens said he did not have this information but noted the protective vest is the largest individual purchase normally, with a cost of \$2,500 - \$3,000, and there are uniforms and other incidental items. Lt. Hartwig said that the team contributions are in line with department membership numbers. For example, Morton is expected to spend over the next 3-5 years what CIERT is asking from this purchase by Washington. Mr. Gee asked if there was a better way to fund CIERT, structuring the cost so that members could budget certain dollars to a central fund. Lt. Hartwig noted that the recent increase in dues, the only increase since the inception of CIERT, to a total of \$250 per department, is used in alternating years for team equipment and training. Hartwig said he was all for a better mechanism but that would have to go through the CIERT Board and Chief Papis can propose anything on behalf of the City. Mr. Butler noted this purchase is a significant and noted that it is not feasible for CIERT to centrally own and house all equipment. Hartwig said that is true and they have challenges with the several vehicles centrally located at the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. Hartwig noted that Washington is an integral part of CIERT and CIERT wants to keep Washington participating and happy. CIERT would be happy to participate in community events as they have, for example, at the Peoria County Emergency Expo. Asked how much training CIERT does per month, Hartwig noted that the teams do 24 hours of training per month and the National Tactical Officers' Association recommends 16. Hartwig noted much of the additional time is spent on weapons of mass destruction training through ILEAS. Mr. Butler said

the explanation for the rifle expense has been good and helpful. He is convinced it is not an unneeded gadget but wants Hartwig to ensure that donations by member communities are tracked and equalized. Mr. Middlemas noted that the purchase amounts to insurance for a very bad situation. Mr. Gee asked about the barrel life on the rifle and Middlemas noted it is about 3,000 – 5,000 rounds, equating to a service life of about 15 years depending on schools attended and training done. Bean has completed the basic and advanced schools using the PCSO rifle that will be retired on replacement. The Aldermen expressed that they did not believe Lt. Hartwig, Mr. Middlemas, or Officer Bean would be required to answer questions at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

c. 911 CONSOLIDATION UPDATE:

On July 6, Deputy Chief Stevens attended the hearing at the Illinois Commerce Commission for the Tazewell County Application for Waiver of the 911 Consolidation Requirement. ETSB Assistant Director Rich Mendenhall and Erin Morey of the East Peoria Police Department represented the Tazewell County ETSB during the hearing and presented the waiver application. The Illinois State Police were represented by an attorney.

An ISP witness, 911 Program Analyst Stacy Ross, testified that our waiver application met the technical requirements for the State.

The Illinois State Police position is that the county should have a single entity controlling the county PSAPs and the consolidation statute vision includes this point. TPCCC Director Tammie Conover believes the TPCCC Board is amenable to this concept and Rich Mendenhall testified the single governing board is the ultimate goal for Tazewell County.

ISP suggested that a 5-year waiver may be too long and asked that the Tazewell ETSB be required to file a consolidation plan by October 1, 2017, which is consistent with the waiver application plan calling for filing a consolidation plan after the next 911 Consolidation grant announcements in June, 2017. In my view, filing such a plan is consistent with the 5-year waiver application.

The ALJ will make a recommendation to the 911 Advisory Board by August 30 and a final decision is due from the Statewide 911 Coordinator by September 30. That decision is subject to judicial review.

d. WARNING SIRENS UPDATE: D.C. Stevens reported that during July's monthly OWS test, police directly observed 4 of the City's 10 sirens during the test. All observed sirens appeared to function properly and all displayed lit test lights indicating proper operation after the test.

The sirens observed were: Cedar Street, Kern Road, Foster Road, Wilmor Road, Freedom Parkway, and Washington Middle School.

Based on a resident report of a malfunction, Ragan Communications tested the Foster Road siren and found damage consistent with a lightning strike. The siren has an internal Mylar control panel that is damaged and is now disconnected, which allows for proper remote operation of the siren. Ragan Communications will replace the part when it becomes available.

All sirens displayed test lights indicating proper operation. We received a resident report that the North Main (WMS) siren operated properly during the test.

Stevens and Papis said they would provide the estimated cost for adding a supplementary “reset button” in the lower floor of the Police Department.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Regarding the street name signs for the Nofsinger/Boyd Parkway intersection, Mr. Culotta said IDOT will allow signage within certain parameters. Each Alderman expressed that signage should be installed if within normal expense parameters.
 - b. Mr. Brownfield asked about the status of parking on Westgate. Chief Papis noted that there is parking on one side of part of Westgate and it would be possible to extend that prohibition. Mr. Gee said the question then becomes which side would be restricted.
6. Mr. Brownfield motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Gee. The meeting was adjourned about 6:21 P.M.