

APPROVED MINUTES

Public Safety and Community Services Committee of the Village Board Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL

November 27, 2007 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Clerk Folbrick at 6:00pm in the Village Board Room.

Roll Call

Those present were Trustee Caulfield and Trustee Pierce. Trustee McCarty arrived at 6:01 PM. Also present were Acting Administrator Keim and Deputy Clerk Folbrick. Additional persons present were: Jim Foerster, Laurie Sunde, Jeff Vandevoorde, Bob Wonderling, Wayne Sobczak, Steve Smouse and Lee Shannon.

Emergency Response and Preparedness -

Chairman Caulfield explained that the reason for calling this committee meeting was to answer questions he's been getting from residents, and to get an update on emergency responses. He requested a report from each division of public safety on their preparedness for growth, their budget and their staffing.

Lee Shannon, Director of Emergency Management, reported that his department can currently handle situations that may arise. He explained that any mandates that come from Homeland Security are currently unfunded, and must go through a grant process. He expects that the job will be expanding, and may need more manpower in the future.

Jeff Vandevoorde, Assistant Fire Chief, stated that there is a large concern among the First Fire Protection District with regards to staffing and manpower. He explained that they must follow NFPA Standards, which restrict the entrance of firefighters into a building until sufficient staff has arrived at the scene. Assistant Chief Vandevoorde related that the First Fire Protection District will have a referendum on the next ballot in order to request funding to staff all of the fire stations. He explained that response time is crucial, and is suffering due to the lack of manpower. Acting Administrator Keim explained that the referendum would fund 50% for the District, and the Village of Antioch would need to make a decision to match the funding.

Jim Foerster, Antioch Police Chief, expressed his concerns with staffing and manpower. He reviewed his report showing the ratio of population growth to officers per shift, and explained that, at times, sergeants must take calls, which should not occur. Chief Foerster stated that their response times are good, but he would like to see the department be more proactive. In order to do that the department would need more officers.

Steve Smouse, Township Supervisor, explained the coordinating efforts the Township is making with the Village. He explained that support is needed from the Village of Antioch in order to match the referendum if it is passed. He updated the committee on the civil defense sirens that have been installed, and the plan for additional sirens in the future.

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Bob Wonderling, Township Emergency Management Supervisor, discussed the sirens located in the Township, and the distances they reach. He explained that he has worked with Lee Shannon in order to obtain sirens at the Village level.

Wayne Sobczak, Antioch Rescue, reviewed staffing at the Rescue Squad and explained their revenue sources and budget. While he said that the Rescue Squad does not want any monetary donations from the Village of Antioch, they appreciate the assistance with fuel funding.

Mr. Wonderling expressed concern with the current EOC (Emergency Operations Center) being outdated, and in a poor location.

Chairman Caulfield thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting, and asked to coordinate a bi-monthly committee meeting in order to address any concerns or questions.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Trustee Caulfield moved, seconded by Trustee McCarty to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick
Deputy Clerk