

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Town Hall Council Chambers

February 26, 2007

Present: Patrick O'Connor, Chairperson
Arthur E. Mathews
Greg Shanahan
Michael Smart

Not Present: Sue Kay

Also Present: James Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman O'Connor called the Public Safety Committee Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Discussion on the placement of Massachusetts Motorcycle Association sign during Motorcycle Awareness Period in Weymouth

Chairman O'Connor stated that he had spoken with Jane Hackett regarding this issue.

Chairman O'Connor stated that Mr. Wendell Davis (Massachusetts Motorcycle Association) had indicated that he would forward a letter regarding potential locations for the sign that he had discussed with Chief Thomas. Chairman O'Connor noted that he had not received any communication from Mr. Davis at this time.

Chairman O'Connor stated that he saw no need to take action until such time as Mr. Davis submits the letter regarding potential locations for the sign.

Update on identified hotspots for graffiti cleanup - Councilor Greg Shanahan and Councilor Patrick O'Connor

Chairman O'Connor stated that he had traveled the main roads in town and noted that there were several locations which needed to be cleaned up:

- The over passes on Summer Street and Pleasant seem to be in most need.
- The old bleachers at Legion Field. He noted that these bleachers are slated to be torn down but it is currently an eyesore.

Councilor Shanahan stated that after the work is completed to cover up the graffiti there then needs to be a mechanism to inform the Police of action taken. The purpose would be for the Police to be able to monitor specific sites.

Councilor Mathews suggested that Mike Doyle of the Recreation Department be contacted for information regarding any hotspots that he may be aware of which are a target for graffiti.

Chairman O'Connor stated that he would like to start the cleanup by April or May. He would like to develop strategic partnership with groups across the county and across the state.

Discussion on the potential of a Weymouth Fire Department operated with ambulance service - Weymouth Firefighters Union President Lt. Jeffrey Wall and Brian Evangelista

Lt. Jeffrey Wall appeared before the Public Safety Committee. He noted that the issue of a Fire Department based Emergency Medical Service has been previously discussed over the past 30 years. He noted that this did not come to pass because the 1979 budgetary constraints made it impossible.

Lt. Wall stated that part of this service is that it can produce revenue for the town. He noted that more importantly it would provide a greater provision of services and an increase in the quality of life for the community.

This issue was initially discussed in 1979 and came up again in 1995. However it did not happen as there were other issues of concern such as the closing of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

Lt. Wall stated that Union Local 1616, Chief of Fire Department, Chief of Police, and the current provider of ambulance service need to work together to fully investigate this option, again.

He noted that there are several issues which will need to be addressed such as collective bargaining, medical control, and start up costs.

He noted that almost 70% of the department is made up of EMT's and paramedics.

Lt. Wall noted that a large concern regarding this type of service is the size of the town.

He stated that he would like to see the service provide treatment and transport. He noted that medics will be cross trained; they are trained firefighters.

Councilor Mathews stated that he had many questions but felt that he should hold off until Lt. Wall could give a full presentation. He noted that start up cost is a concern. He suggested that a feasibility study be completed.

Lt. Wall stated that Brian Evangelista is working on a presentation at this time.

He stated that joining forces with other entities within the town to bring this service to the town would be a good idea.

Councilor Shanahan stated that his questions revolved around personnel. He asked what the difference is between an EMT and a paramedic. Lt. Wall stated that it has to do with the administering of drugs, tube insertion, and the administration of narcan. He noted that a paramedic is similar to an ER nurse-- but working in the field. He noted that an EMT can assist a paramedic. He stated that there is a waiver from the State in regards to allowing one paramedic to work with one EMT while training is on-going.

Lt. Wall stated that most of the employees of the private ambulance company work per diem. Their first responsibility is to their full time job.

President Smart asked what type of cooperation exists between the Fire Department and Fallon Ambulance. Lt. Wall stated that there is a good working relationship with the ambulance company.

Councilor Mathews asked about the location of the ambulances around town. Lt. Wall stated that there would not be an ambulance in each fire station. They would be strategically located around the town. He stated that there would be one located at each side of town and one floater.

Councilor Mathews asked if there is mutual aid for ambulance service. Lt. Wall stated that it is state mandated to have mutual aid.

President Smart asked about staffing. Lt. Wall stated that there are three (3) fire fighters and an officer on a ladder and three (3) fire fighters on an engine.

Chairman O'Connor noted that in Cambridge, the city is paid for services provided. Lt. Wall noted that Weymouth is not paid for services provided in conjunction with Fallon Ambulance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Shanahan to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Patrick O'Connor, Chairperson