



MINUTES
Public Safety Committee Meeting
March 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Jon Schneider, Newaygo City Manager, called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. The meeting was held at Newaygo City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo, MI 49337.

Members Present: Georgia Andres (Newaygo Police Chief), Theresa Cooper (PSD Chair), Morgan Heinzman (TIFA Chair & Croton Township Supervisor), Danielle Hummel (Newaygo Fire Board Chair), Cory Nelson-via phone (Brooks Township Supervisor), Dave Otteren (Newaygo Fire District Chief), Jon Schneider (Newaygo City Manager), Ron Wight (Newaygo DPW Superintendent)

Others Present: Jennifer Badgero (Brooks Township Clerk), Amy Dalman (Newaygo City Code Enforcement Officer), Kim Goodin (Newaygo City Clerk), Nicole Klomp (Newaygo Police Social Worker), Russ Kolski (Newaygo Fire Board), Mitch Rood (Newaygo Police School Resource Officer), Lloyd Walerczyk (Newaygo Police Sergeant)

Motion by Heinzman, second by Andres to approve 04/13/2022 meeting minutes. AIF/MC

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Code Enforcement Updates:

- Dalman said that she recently completed training and received certificates for Zoning Administration, Citizen Planning, and Home Inspection.
- Sgt. Walerczyk stated that part-time Newaygo Police Officer, Brett DeAugustine, had been assisting with Code Enforcement in Croton and Brooks Township. He said that things have been going well and that a compliance hearing is scheduled for the end of March.

B. Social Worker Updates:

- Klomp gave an update on “Hope not Handcuffs” Program stating that it has been a very successful program.

C. EOP & School Updates:

- Officer Rood said that the Newaygo Public School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) had been completed and approved.
- Officer Rood discussed grant that was awarded to Newaygo Public Schools, for a guaranteed three years, for a School Resource Officer. He said that the grant funds cannot be used for any School Resource Officers already in place.
- Officer Rood said that he is working with Grant School Resource Officer on Human Trafficking Program that is being presented at the schools.

D. Chief Andres Updates:

- Chief Andres discussed changes that were going to be made in the North Parking lot, behind The Stream building. Chief said that she and Schneider had met with the businesses in this area and some of the curbs behind the businesses will be painted yellow, one-way directional traffic will be striped along the side of the bank, and a commercial parking spot will be added in the coming months.
- Chief said that all police agencies have been short-staffed and stated that it has been challenging to get new officers. She said that the City is working with a potential recruit that the City would pay for the recruit to attend the academy and they will come to work at the City upon completion of the academy.

E. Fire Department Updates:

- Fire Chief Otteren stated that the Newaygo Fire District (NFD) has been experiencing a lack of staff being available to take calls during the day shift hours and that they have missed 11 medical calls since July 2022. He discussed state licensing that requires them to have 24/7 coverage.

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- Fire Chief Otteren said that they would like to hire a full-time chief and full-time fire fighter to work Monday-Friday from 6:00 am-3:00 pm. He stated that the previous Fire Chief had worked from home, lived in the City and was able to respond to most calls during the day. He stated that 78% of the calls for the NFD are medical calls.
- Hummel stated that the national average of medical calls for fire departments is 72%
- Heinzman said that every Fire Department is experiencing issues with calls during the day. He discussed some options that the Croton Fire Department had done to add a couple of new fire fighters that are available to respond to calls during the day shift.
- Kolski said that the NFD had started exploring options approximately 5 years ago to help alleviate the problem of missing calls during the day shifts. He believes that adding the full-time fire department employees is a viable option. Kolski said that if NFD has paid fire fighters available during the day shift hours, residents who live within 5 miles of the Fire Department may experience a reduction in home owners insurance because of the ISO rating.
- Schneider stated that Sgt. Walerczyk had given an update about the proposal of adding full-time fire fighters at the February City Council Meeting. He said that the consensus of the Council was that it was too early to make a decision as they needed additional information and wanted to know what options have been explored.
- Chief Andres discussed overall public safety budget in the county and discussed the feasibility study that was done a number of years ago.
- Alternative ideas for addressing volume of medical calls that were discussed:
 - Consolidation. This could happen in different ways such as combining aspects of neighboring fire departments, or combining aspects of police, fire and DPW.
 - Contracting for services
 - Multiple roles for full-time person. For example, maybe a person could be hired full-time to handle Code Enforcement throughout the District and serve as Fire Chief or a Fire Fighter.
- Other topics that were discussed amongst all:
 - Who is responding to missed calls?
 - Response times
 - Tracking of missed calls by other Fire Agencies
 - Fire Department Budget Process, Amending Budget, Fire Department Fund Balance
- It was discussed that maybe adding full-time fighters to the NFD is the correct answer, but many felt that there had not been enough information presented to make a final decision
- Schneider stated that ultimately the Township Boards and City Council would make the final decision on funding and suggested that the Boards and Council develop a list of questions that they would like answered or information they would like to review.
- Nelson stated that he had made many notes/questions during the meeting that he would bring to the Brooks Township Board meeting.

Motion by Heinzman, second by Wight to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 pm. AIF/MC