



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Study Session Minutes

June 25, 2024 4:00 PM

Fire Station 1, 950 N. Spring, Independence, MO

CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chairperson Brad Mudd.

Roll Call

Members present: Chairperson Brad Mudd and Members Patrick Casey, Tara Kruse, Bruce Luedeman, Erin Boatright and Donna Pittman.

Also present: Fire Chief Jimmy Walker, Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart, Deputy Police Chief Michelle Sumstead, Deputy Police Chief Jason Petersen, Jennifer Schatz, Dennea Leap and Transcriber Heather Tucker.

Not in attendance: Bruce Frakes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 27, 2024 MEETING

Motion made to approve minutes from March 27, 2024, meeting by member Patrick Casey, which was 2nd by member Tara Kruse. All members in favor, no opposition.

Welcome new Fire Chief Jimmy Walker.

UPDATE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Update - Deputy Chief Kirk Stobart:

Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information through March 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024, was

distributed to the Committee. Refer to the attached report for details.

Project updates: couple of open encumbrances; 2 pumpers have been ordered and July delivery is moving to the fall. Pumper that committee gave blessing on that should be here in the fall as well. 2 more pumpers ordered for July 2025 delivery. Wanted to have new Quint here to show it off, unfortunately AC Shelley is tied up with vehicle issues today.

All of rescue remounts have been delivered and are in service.

12 new firefighters start at the end of July.

Also hired a new fire inspector from the outside who also starts at the end of July. Primary function will be plan review.

Station design is still going; working with project advocates and architects for preliminary designs. Laid out everything we wanted to see and then they take that information and put it on paper to make final decisions. At this time we are on target with schedule.

Turn out gear has been ordered and more to order for new personnel.

- Member Pat Casey inquired how many Firefighters will we need after this next hiring process?
 - DC Kirk Stobart advised that we would be even on staffing. However, we will have a retirement at the end of July and more coming by the end of the year.

The unassigned fund balance as of April 2024 was \$12.8. This took a big jump due to tax collections coming in higher than anticipated. Currently, the cost to build is \$900/ square foot. Therefore, we will need those funds for building.

Uniformed Fire personnel and capital improvement information from page 5 was discussed.

- Member Donna Pittman asked when is the station by Centerpoint expected to be completed?
 - DC Stobart advised that the build schedule is for Station 8, then 11 and then 5. Talking with Lisa Rynolds and bonding, she thinks we can do all 3 at once but that is still unsure. However, we are not sure station 5 will last another 5 years due to cracking and general deterioration
- Member Bruce Luedeman inquired where is Station 5 is located.
 - DC Kirk Stobart answered that it is at 35th and Sterling.
- Member Donna Pittman asked if there was still no projected date?
 - DC Kirk Stobart has a projected timeline that can be share with the committee. Station 8 completion is anticipated to be 2.5 years, Station 11 3-3.5 years and

Station 5 – 3.5-4 years.

- Member Pat Casey asked if Station 8 and Station 5 were going to be rebuilt in the same place?
 - DC Stobart advised that it is the plan to build new Station 8 by our existing training tower. Station 5 cannot go back where it is. We have our eyes set on where we want to have it but that will take land acquisition and purchasing.
- Member Donna Pittman inquired about the mansion that burned on 40 Hwy.
 - DC Kirk Stobart advised that he has not heard of that location. We are trying to keep stations away from boundary lines. ESCI recommends being well inside the boundaries for response times.

Members had no further questions for the Fire Department. A motion was made by member Erin Boatright to accept the report by the Fire Department, which was seconded by member Donna Pittman. All in Favor. IFD report was approved by all committee members.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

IFD report was approved by all committee members.

WELCOME TO INDEPENDENCE FIRE CHIEF JIMMY WALKER

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Police Department

Police Update – Deputy Police Chief Jason Petersen:

Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, Police USE Tax (Prop P) Quarterly Report with information for July 1 2023 – May 31, 2024, as well as Marijuana Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024 were distributed to the Committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report:

DC Jason Petersen begins by reviewing the Quarterly Safety Tax addressing the big-ticket items listed out on page 4. The 3rd item on the list is a 3-year replacement plan for computers. Vehicles are a large expense; we have received the remaining Explorers from this year's order from Shawnee Mission Ford. Body cameras have been deployed which allows for in car video to be tied with body cameras.

This report also outlines future projects for the 2024/2025 FY Budget. On page 6 of this report, it has been included to replace the current Bearcat. DC Michele Sumstead speaks to that: The Bearcat is the armored vehicle that the SWAT team uses. The one we have now is 20 years old and requires lots of repairs, which results in down time. IPD will keep the current one but order a new one. Currently the turnaround time is 16 months. Major Kelsey said KC ordered one about 8 months ago and they are still

18 months out on taking possession.

Acceptance was given for Quarterly Use Tax Report

- Member Bruce Luedeman inquired if this was a Military surplus item?
 - DC Michelle Sumstad advised that it is not, it is brand new.

The new Command post should be deployed the first week or two of July. The entire fleet of Van Do It all had FORD recalls, which took a couple of months. This apparatus can be at the next meeting for show and tell. The large command post has about a 16 month turn around, therefore it is hopeful for delivery at the end of 2025.

Update on staffing: 1 rehire starts Monday, 4 certified officers start July 15 which would have them hitting road in Sept/October, depending on training. 8 are currently in the academy (4 in junior and 4 in senior class). It would be February/March 2025 before they will be released from academy.

KCPD offered their officers a large raise. Therefore, FOP and City Management have been working hard nights and weekends to get contract finalized. IPD is getting a lot of interest due to 55/60 insurance. The plan is to have a new technology employee hired in the next month or so to help Doug Christiansen.

2. Acceptance of Quarterly Use Tax Report from Police Department

Police USE Tax (Prop P) Quarterly Report is covered by DC Jason Petersen:

Wage proposal to find funding now hits USE tax and American plan act money. Provided the raises for this year, will have to find funding to support raises.

As outlined on page 4 of the report, funds have been appropriated for a local match required on the DOJ Body Camera grant.

Funds have also been encumbered for 10-year contract with AXON. Currently in full press mode trying to get all these things rolled out. AXON is coming in July to do discovery regarding records management software to get everything under the same umbrella. Body cams will work with in car camera that will all work with case report. 10-year plan was the only way to manage all equipment at the same time.

3. Acceptance of Quarterly Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

Marijuana Sales Tax Quarterly Report:

DC Michelle Sumstad advised that the building update meetings with Hoefer Welker are held every Monday for general plan for new Justice Center and move to IUC. The Independence Utilities Center (IUC) is a great building, and they would have the entire piece of land for expansion. If needed, could

also get the park property.

IPD is hopeful to have some operations in IUC 1st quarter of next year. Time frame if GIO bond passes, end of 2026/first of 2027 for that to be complete.

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by member Bruce Luedeman to accept the reports by the Police Department, which was seconded by member Tara Kruse. All in Favor. IPD reports were approved by all committee members.

- Member Donna Pittman inquired about the August ballot for Proposition PD. If passed, how much is that supposed to bring in?
- DC Jason Petersen answered that it would effectively double the PST.

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, AT 4:00 PM

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at IPD headquarters in the multi-purpose room on 1st floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by member Pat Casey, which was 2nd by member Tara Kruse. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.