



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Minutes

January 23, 2025 4:00 PM

Multi-Purpose Room, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by Chairperson Brad Mudd.

Roll Call

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

Members absent: Bruce Luedeman

Also present: Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart, Deputy Police Chief Michelle Sumstad, Deputy Police Chief Jason Petersen, Dennea Leap and Transcriber Jennifer Schatz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING

Minutes from the September 19, 2024, meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

UPDATE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Update –Deputy Chief Kirk Stobart:

Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information through July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, was distributed to the Committee. Refer to the attached report for details.

Project updates: Deputy Fire Chief Stobart – The aerial platform is getting finishing touches, and two pumpers will be delivered in February and March 2025. The next round of pumpers will be in late summer and early fall and ordered in 2026. The station process is moving along, there are RFQ's out on build of three new stations that will be built in line as the process goes. Construction on these stations will start the first of next year. The brand-new station 8 will go up first by the training tower. Next will

be station 5 that will stay in the current location. Following station 5 will be station 8 that will be east of Centerpoint Medical Center.

Member Donna Pittman asked how far back is the land by station 5?

- Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: There is access off Norwood that the city owns and hoping to have access from that direction.

Member Bruce Frakes asked if that was all for projects?

- Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: Yes, as far as major projects go. Station 1 will have to go through the design process which will cost about \$300,000 dollars.

Member Bruce Frakes asked if new pumpers and new equipment would have helped with yesterday's fire?

- Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: The location of the apartment complex made it difficult for ladders, but the pumps have been built the same for years it wouldn't have changed.

Member Bruce Frakes asked if there were any personnel injuries from yesterday's fire?

- Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: Yes, we had a few injuries, but everyone is good. They were treated and released the same day.

Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: Yesterday was a tragic day, but we try to remind everyone that we saved 23 out of 24 families.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

Members had no further questions for the Fire Department. A motion was made by member Patrick Casey to accept the report by the Fire Department, which was seconded by member Bruce Frakes. All in Favor. IFD report was approved by all committee members.

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Update – Chief Adam Dustman:

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

Chief Dustman: Yesterday's response was phenomenal, there was clear direction, and everything ran seamlessly. This was echoed by the Red Cross; the director said the on-scene coordination and

emergency preparedness was the most seamless seen in 20+ years.

Chief Dustman: No major updates. We are still waiting on the bearcat and the command post. We are continuing with tech. upgrades and the build out phase with Axon. The roll out of body cams has gone amazingly well and we continue to see benefits.

As far as personnel, we have 11 in the academy between Blue River and Kansas City. We have seen a positive uptick in applicants with a big push in records and detention staff. We still are struggling with dispatch; we are down 50%. We have joined in with the career pathway programs in school districts which gave us two volunteers out of Fort Osage.

We are also seeing a switch with those in the civilian side going to the sworn side. Overall, we are down 22 spots department wide.

Member Tara Kruse asked if this number was based off the 230 total?

- Chief Dustman: Yes.

Member Bruce Frakes asked if this includes the 11 in the pipeline?

- Chief Dustman: No, we have 22 additional on top of that.

Chief Dustman discussed Question One on the GO Bond and talked about how it will highlight the actual revenue the tax brings in.

Member Bruce Frakes said some of these things have come up at the wrong time. If people can communicate this is only for Independence, this would help.

- Chief Dustman: I tell people and want people to understand that the \$197 million is not a given on day one. Expenses will come in and there will be bell curves.

Member Bruce Frakes said if a catastrophe happened, the price would rise, maybe double.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by member Brad Mudd to accept the reports by the Police Department, which was seconded by member Donna Pittman. All in Favor. IPD reports were approved by all committee members.

2. Acceptance of Quarterly Use Tax Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by member Brad Mudd to accept the reports by the Police Department, which was seconded by member Donna Pittman. All in Favor. IPD reports were approved by all committee members.

3. Acceptance of Quarterly Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

Members had no further questions for the Police Department. A motion was made by member Brad Mudd to accept the reports by the Police Department, which was seconded by member Donna Pittman. All in Favor. IPD reports were approved by all committee members.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 27, 2025, AT 4:00 PM

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Independence utilities Center, Conference Room 117.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by member Bruce Frakes, which was 2nd by member Donna Pittman. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.