



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Minutes

March 24, 2025 4:00 PM

17221 E. 23rd St. S., Independence, MO 64057
Conference Room 117

ROLL CALL

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 pm by Chairperson Brad Mudd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 & JANUARY 23, 2025 MEETINGS

A motion was made to approve minutes from the meetings on September 19th, 2024 and January 23rd, 2025 by Patrick Casey, which was seconded by member Bruce Frakes. All members in favor, no opposition.

UPDATE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Walker: Big updates. We completed the delivery of a new pumper that will be in service in about two weeks. We also took delivery of one aerial platform and will be in service within the next week or two. We are scheduled to have CMAR in front of city council for approval. The reading will be in two weeks.

Current projects include the parking lot at Station 1. We want to create a secured parking area to keep vandalism from happening. We did a thorough gear check to be compliant with gear standards and confiscated equipment that was over ten years old.

Chief Walker: We are going to take the current truck one and place it as a reserve apparatus, and take the reserve apparatus we currently have to auction. We are looking at ordering two front line apparatus' and one reserve. These are back ordered three to three and a half years but if I order now, the price will be locked in at the current price. We may need to reallocate funds due to price increases and tariffs. We took delivery of Pumper 9 which will shift to the east side of town. Pumper 6 will get a new rig delivery in the Fall which will be a 1,000 gallon tank. Station 8 will be under construction while Station 5 will be in design and under construction prior to the completion of Station 11. Completion is slated for 18 months. The goal is to replace Station 6 and Station 9 which were built in 1986. We have selected a vendor but are waiting for a contract to be finalized for the next three stations.

Member Donna Pittman asked if it would need to go to a vote to reallocate funds?

Chief Walker: I don't believe so if this group approves the reallocation.

Member Tara Kruse: My husband does programming and has to change with tariffs daily. I can't imagine the cost.

Chief Walker: Tariffs and building costs are rising daily. We do know that we need to look into Stations 6, 9, and 10 and still have 1 & 2, which are remodels that need to be upgraded within the next decade.

Chief Walker: In regard to staffing, there are collective bargaining negotiations, and it takes months to be at a full staff count with retirements. For hiring, we currently have eleven recruits in the class. On a positive note, your taxpayer dollars have been at work. Last quarter we rescued sixteen civilians out of structure fires alive.

Member Bruce Frakes: Will we be seeing at the next meeting a fund movement?

Chief Walker: Maybe in the next two meetings. We are exploring every option plus lease and purchase plans. We want to set a budget for a responsible apparatus replacement plan. If we bond out close to \$40 million for three stations it is very pricey and you can only imagine one station costing \$15 million.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

The Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025 was distributed to the committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

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

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Dustman: All Axon is moving along as scheduled. Page 4 on the Quarterly report shows the end number of transfers for the Justice Center Project. Deputy Chief Sumstad showed renderings of what the new Justice Center would look like.

Member Patrick Casey: Asked a question about the rendering if the building shown on the right was the IUC.

Chief Dustman: Yes, everything beyond the flags is municipal court, the jail will be below that.

Member Donna Pittman: Is detention still holding center?

Chief Dustman: Yes, it is.

Member Donna Pittman: Regarding the GO Bond, for those 62 and older will the property owner taxes be frozen?

Chief Dustman: You have to apply for the application.

Member Donna Pittman: If the property owner changes, it wouldn't be frozen?

Chief Dustman: The transfer for property will need to be made and if under 62 added.

Deputy Chief Sumstad: The new subdivisions and businesses will help spread out the tax base.

Member Patrick Casey: Chief how are you on cars?

Chief Dustman: We took delivery of six explorers in a month and a half. We are looking better and shuffling where a new one can go and be the most efficient.

Member Patrick Casey: Are there hybrids for non-command staff?

Chief Dustman: Ford never made them, they got rid of that line. There are too many electronics that would drain.

Member Bruce Luedeman: Are there issues with tariffs with cars?

Chief Dustman: Not that we have seen. We placed an order at the start of the fiscal year. We will know more at the start of the next fiscal year.

Deputy Chief Petersen: There is a body style change coming with cars.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Police Department

Chief Dustman: The beginning balance for the sales tax was \$2.1 million, so far we have collected a little over \$1.9 million.

The Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025, was distributed to the committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

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

2. Acceptance of Quarterly Use Tax Report from Police Department

Chief Dustman: Page 3 shows the expenditures with the use tax. We have 30 additional positions, we commissioned two today and have three coming out of the academy in a few weeks. Page 4 shows the updated fund balance on future transfers to be roughly \$2.5 million.

The Police Use Tax (Prop P) Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025, was distributed to the committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

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

3. Acceptance of Quarterly Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

Chief Dustman: The overall revenue is \$929,758, page 2 expenditure 102, expect transfers out of \$900,000 allocated to the Justice Center.

The Marijuana Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information for July 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025, was distributed to the committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

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

4. Acceptance of Prop PD Tax Report from Police Department

Chief Dustman: Prop PD has just started. Page 2 shows so far we have collected \$38,311 dollars. This is just getting off the ground. The total revenue is \$147,349 dollars.

The Prop PD Quarterly Report with information for January 1, 2025 - February 28, 2025, was distributed to the committee. Refer to the attached reports for details.

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

NEXT MEETING JUNE 26, 2025, AT 4:00 PM

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26th, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the Independence Utilities Center.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn made by Bruce Frakes, which was 2nd by Chairperson Brad Mudd. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.