



Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee Minutes

July 31, 2025 4:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm by Bruce Frakes.

ROLL CALL

Prior to roll call, Patrick Casey motioned a nomination to make Bruce Frakes the Co-Chair of the committee due to the previous co-chair resigning. This motion was 2nd by Erin Boatright.

All in favor, this motion passed. There was also an introduction by the newest member, Charline Gray.

Members Present: Co-Chair Bruce Frakes, Patrick Casey, Tara Kruse, Erin Boatright, and Charline Gray.

Also Present: Fire Chief Jimmy Walker, Deputy Fire Chief Kirk Stobart, Acting Police Chief Jason Petersen, Deputy Chief Michelle Sumstad, Dennea Leap, and transcriber Jennifer Schatz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 24TH, 2025, MEETING

A motion was made to approve minutes from the meeting on March 24th, 2025 by Patrick Casey, which was seconded by member Erin Boatright. All members in favor, no opposition.

UPDATE FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Walker: We have two new pumpers arriving in the Fall. Every member of IFD has two sets of gear. Next year, in 2026, new emission standards will begin. We are looking at taking three old pumpers and refurbishing them. We also have a ten-year apparatus plan. Some options we have explored are leasing and purchasing outright.

Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: This might be the last year to buy a fire truck for under a million

dollars.

Chief Walker: The design phase is moving along on Station 8. We plan to break ground in early 2026 with a completion date of 18 months. Station 11 is going to be similar in design. The plan is Station 8 to Station 5 to Station 11.

Member Patrick Casey: Where will Station 11 be located?

Chief Walker: This will be next to Centerpoint Hospital.

Chief Walker: We are working with finance on budget items and making an easier decipher dashboard and will be having monthly meetings on where our budget stands.

Member Patrick Casey: Are you good on personnel?

Chief Walker: We are always hiring.

Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: We are about four short and will have three retirements by the end of the year.

Chief Walker: We are planning on a recruitment in the Fall and are anticipating there will be vacancies.

Co-Chair Bruce Frakes: We know the bonds didn't pass. Is there more work to possibly retry these?

Chief Walker: That was with PD, not Fire. We have dedicated revenue.

Deputy Fire Chief Stobart: Our bond is more like a mortgage.

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Fire Department

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

The members had no further questions for the Fire Department. A motion was made by member Erin Boatright and seconded by Charline Gray. All in Favor. The IFD report was approved by all committee members.

UPDATE FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Acceptance of Quarterly Report from Police Department

Acting Chief Petersen went over the Quarterly Report and noted that we will have to work to get this approved as it has a sunset in December 2028. Line items can be seen on page three going over all the expenses for FY 24/25. Page four shows the transfers out and discussed the significant purchases/expenses since February 2025 section.

Construction is set to start August 16th at the Independence Utilities Center, not related to the GO Bond.

The Public Safety Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information from July 1, 2024, to May 31, 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 Co-Chair Bruce Frakes and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD report was approved by all committee members.

2. Acceptance of Quarterly Use Tax Report from Police Department

Acting Chief Petersen noted that this tax does not have a sunset.

Co-Chair Bruce Frakes: Is there a shortage in Dispatch?

Acting Chief Petersen: Yes, the training can take just as long as it takes for an officer in training, but we are filling positions with our professional staff. Currently, Detention and Records are at full capacity.

You will see on page four information on Axon. We locked in the price for ten years and what we got is substantial. We got body cameras, tasers, in-car video cameras, VR training, Records Management System, and all software/hardware maintenance and updates.

Member Tara Kruse: How much of a difference are you seeing with cameras and VR?

Acting Chief Petersen: We have the ability to view and live stream. It is incredible and a tremendous force multiplier for decision-making.

Member Tara Kruse: Is there a study on legal impact?

Acting Chief Petersen: It is still too early. When a complaint is made, we can see the video.

Member Tara Kruse: Will legal go down in cost with body cameras?

Deputy Chief Sumstad: With high-profile cases, if we didn't have footage then it could be a lot worse.

Acting Chief Petersen: It gives us an objective lens where we can see and assess if there is something we can do better.

Co-Chair Bruce Frakes: It seems substantial to have on video.

Acting Chief Petersen: We will continue to monitor and see.

Member Tara Kruse: What about fire? Do you have cameras?

Chief Walker: We do not have cameras. We are there to help and investigate fire prevention. We

are a non-transport agency. We have discussed helmet cameras for training and evaluation of performance.

Acting Chief Petersen: Sunshine law requires info to be released if it's an open record. Body cameras are closed record and have to be redacted.

The Police Use Tax (Prop P) Quarterly Report with information from July 1, 2024, to May 31, 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 Co-Chair Bruce Frakes and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD report was approved by all committee members.

3. Acceptance of Quarterly Marijuana Tax Report from Police Department

Acting Chief Petersen mentioned this is a smaller report and is related to anything public safety.

The Marijuana Sales Tax Quarterly Report with information from July 1, 2024, to May 31, 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 Co-Chair Bruce Frakes and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD report was approved by all committee members.

4. Acceptance of Quarterly Prop PD Tax Report from Police Department

Acting Chief Petersen mentions this is a simple report because it goes towards salaries.

The Prop PD Quarterly Report with information from July 1, 2024, to May 31, 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 Co-Chair Bruce Frakes and seconded by Tara Kruse. All in Favor. The IPD report was approved by all committee members.

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, AT 4:00 PM

The next quarterly Public Safety Tax (PST) Oversight Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25th, 2025 at 4:00 pm at the Independence Utilities Center.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn made by Co-Chair Bruce Frakes, which was seconded by Charline Gray. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.