

Present: President Taylor; President Pro-Tem Walsh; Members: Burry, Koss, Pfeifer, Rijnovean and Woodrow

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso
Finance Director, Wiszowaty
Building Official, Byrwa
Director of Public Safety, Woodard

President Taylor called the special Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

Taylor commented on his expectations for proper conduct of members of Council and the public at Council meetings. He requested mutual respect for each other and for the position of Council members and Village administration.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE REGARDING BUDGET REVIEW

Taylor proposed that Council review the Public Safety Department budget and raise any pertinent questions they may have on line items or areas of interest. There were no questions or comments from Council members on the budget review procedure.

BUDGET REPORT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Director Woodard was present with Captain Yanosy to lead Council in its review of the Public Safety Department budget and to address questions. Woodard reviewed the '345' account line items, which encompass most of the operations of the Public Safety Department. He addressed each line item and provided the rationale for any significant increase or decrease from the previous year's budget.

The nearly \$4 million Public Safety Department budget reflects a 4.45% increase over last year. Woodard remarked that he has some measure of control over only \$210,000 or 5% of that budget. Much of the budget is controlled by contractual items and utility costs.

The School Liaison Officer accounts reflect the officer costs. Woodard noted that half of the budgeted amount is reimbursed by Birmingham Public Schools.

Questions and comments from Council and the public were addressed by Woodard and Wiszowaty. Major topics of discussion included the Public Safety retirement expense and pension contribution, retiree health care, and dispatcher staffing.

Woodard reviewed the Capital Purchase portion of the budget that impacts public safety. Comprehensive information was presented on the Fire Truck Reserve, Vehicle Purchases, Radio Equipment, and Public Safety Equipment accounts.

Yanosy provided background and detail on the three items that comprise the Public Safety Equipment account. One of the items is a \$20,000 matching federal grant for a new set of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) air cylinder units. He explained that the Department will need to switch over its belt mounted regulators for the MSA airpack units to a mask monitored regulator. The industry is discontinuing the manufacture and support of belt mounted regulators after 2009. The Department is joining with neighboring departments in a grant writing endeavor.

The Public Safety Equipment budget includes \$16,000 for an enhanced camera system to expand current security inside the building for prisoner custody. This camera system improvement is a result of a recent Homeland Security study and a recommendation from the Village's insurance carrier after inspecting the facility as part of a proposed contract with Lathrup Village for prisoner lockup service. The \$16,000 figure represents the net cost after receipt of grant money. It was noted that the Village's insurance carrier will provide \$10,000 towards the cost of the new monitoring system.

The Department proposes the purchase of a speed monitoring device for use on major roads in the amount of \$3,000. It is anticipated that the Department will receive matching funds from another agency to defray the \$6,000 cost of this item.

Questions from Council and residents on the capital items were addressed by Woodard and Spallasso.

Rijnovean brought up the fact that the Village Council looked into consolidating its dispatch service with the City of Birmingham in 2005. She mentioned that there may have been some confusion on this subject at the time. The Village Manager was asking for authorization to negotiate an agreement for joint dispatch service with Birmingham and to present a contract to Council for consideration.

Rijnovean stated that she contacted a number of neighboring communities and learned that many municipalities outsource their dispatch and lockup service with success. Cost savings have led communities to pursue this consolidation of services. She asked that Council consider revisiting the concept of sharing dispatch services with Birmingham.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the topic of dispatch service consolidation with Birmingham or other adjacent communities. Council members discussed their recollections and views on the previous investigation of this proposal, why it was voted down, and whether the City of Birmingham would be amenable to reopening this discussion. Council members were interested in determining whether Beverly Hills could provide dispatch service for a neighboring community in an attempt to reduce costs.

It was suggested that joint dispatch services could be a discussion topic at an upcoming Council meeting or study session. Taylor proposed that Council schedule a meeting to discuss its goals and objectives for the year.

The Personnel Committee of Council will meet at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21 prior to the Council meeting. Attorney Ryan will be asked to attend. Council will meet on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. to continue its review of the 2006/07 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Mooney urged caution on the part of Council in terms of going out for bids on public safety dispatch service. She took offense at Taylor’s opening remarks and suggested that the Council President is responsible for controlling a Council meeting.

Bunker Kelly related his recollections with regard to exploring options for consolidation of dispatch services with Birmingham, including problems in the way the issue was presented.

Ron Berndt thanked everyone at the table for their commitment to the Village. He commented on the serious matter of outsourcing the Village’s dispatch. Berndt expressed the view that the main reason for living in this community is the quick response of the public safety department. He supports the Village maintaining the best possible public safety department that it can.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Dave Taylor
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary