



Des Peres Public Safety Department  
12325 Manchester Road  
Des Peres, MO. 63131  
May 16, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner Chair .....Larry Beermann  
Commissioner.....Robert Ashcraft  
Commissioner.....Matt McGrath  
Alderman.....Sean Concagh  
Chief.....Eric Hall  
Captain.....Dale Fiala  
Captain.....Vicki Severs  
Support Lieutenant.....John Appelbaum  
Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

Not Present: Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Chair Beerman opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. There was a quorum with Commissioner Zimmerman was absent with excuse.

**HEAR CITIZENS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022, meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **ALDERMANIC REPORT**

Alderman Concagh stated that the medical marijuana facility that wants to open in the former Paper Doll location on Manchester Road is still in the discussion state. He stated the Magnolia Ridge apartment complex is also in the preliminary planning stage.

Alderman Concagh stated that Koibito Poke will be opening up in the location were Smoothie King used to be.

## **BUDGET**

Chief Hall stated that the budget is trending near normal with 60% remaining and with normal allocations it should be near 62.6%. He stated that the greatest expense has been overtime and vehicle maintenance.

Chief Hall presented the commission a handout of outlining the 28-Day overtime summary for the department. He stated the issue using the most overtime is staffing of a second paramedic and this 28 day period also included one range training day. Chief Hall added that he hopes the overtime expenditures for a second paramedic will reduce moving forward as we have one officer nearly completed with paramedic school, two still attending, and the department has recently hired three (3) part-time paramedics.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Hall introduced the commission Officer Daniel Bise and Office Paige Boehmer as recent hires to the department. He stated that Officer Bise and Boehmer are partners over at West County Center and have done a great job at the center and assisting the department in the utilization of the FLCK license plate reader system.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hiring Process Update**

Lt. Appelbaum stated that the department has ten (10) potential candidates for the opening of Public Safety Officer. He stated that he is setting up interviews for the candidates for this week and next week. He added that one candidate is fully trained as a paramedic and has attended the fire academy. In addition, for this hiring process the department has five (5) total Police Officer – Paramedic applicants which is more than the department has ever received in prior recruitments.

### **Part-time Paramedic Program**

Chief Hall stated that the department has hired three (3) part-time paramedics, one has been released from training and orientation to work shifts, a second who is still in training and orientation, and a third who just completed his physical. Chief Hall concluded that at this time the department will remain with these three part-paramedics and evaluate the effectiveness prior to expanding the program.

## **Update on Vapor Wake K-9 Program**

Chief Hall introduced PSO Brandon Elzinga as the new K-9 handler to the commission. Chief Hall added that he grateful to everyone that helped support the K-9 concept and its approval. Chief Hall provided background on the evaluation of vendors for the dog and stated that originally the department was considering a dog from Vapor Wake who was recently sold to a competitor. He stated due to this sale the department began to look at additional vendors such as FM K-9 and Shallow Creek and the breed of dogs they offer. He added that originally, the department was considering a Labrador type dog but both FM K-9 and Shallow Creek recommend either a German Shepherd or German Shorthaired Pointer breeds for the firearms detection work.

PSO Elzinga gave a brief update on the research of both vendors and the difference in the two breeds, such as the reliability and focus of the German Shepherd breed versus the energetic nature of the German Shorthaired Pointer. He stated that at this time, due to research and feedback from the vendors, the department was looking at the German Shepherd breed as the option for the department. The commission agreed with the department's initial recommendation. Chief Hall added that he will have a recommendation to the Board at the June 13, 2022 meeting. He added that if approved the department would select the dog in July.

Chief Hall added that the department received a donation from the City of Manchester for all related vehicle equipment consisting of the dog transportation compartment, ventilation system, and emergency egress system for the dog. Manchester previously had a K-9 unit and has since transitioned to new vehicle and can no longer use the equipment. The equipment was originally donated to Manchester PD.

## **Update on Flock License Plate Reader System**

Chief Hall stated that the department is waiting on the installation of the final camera at West County Center and the delay has been due to the special requirements for the pole. MODOT requested that a special breakaway pole be installed due to the high number of vehicles that drive off the roadway at the ramp from Northbound 270 to West County Center. The department hopes to have this camera installed in the near future.

In addition, the department is looking at adding an additional camera to West County Center. The current methodology would be to move the Ballas Rd camera and the camera from the Des Peres Rd side (near Shell) of The Lodge and relocate both to cover both entrances to West County Center from Ballas Rd. The department would then purchase a portable camera to replace the one at The Lodge and could be moved for hot spot policing if the department has an issue in another area of the city. The portable camera runs on battery and can be simply mounted on a pole. The only issues are the portable camera cost \$3,000 per year in comparison to the fixed cameras that cost \$2,500. In addition, the portable cameras operated on batteries and will need to be replaced from time to time while the fixed cameras are solar powered.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chief Hall presented the commission with a crime report handout showing the first four months of the last five (5) years.

Commissioner Ashcraft asked if the department was considering sending anyone to the FBI Academy. Chief Hall stated that Captain Severs will apply for the FBI Academy in the near future.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner McGrath made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ashcraft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

ATTEST:

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Mónica Llorián – Administrative Asst.

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