



City of Fort Bragg

416 N Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 961-2823
Fax: (707) 961-2802

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

3:00 PM

Police Department Conference Room
250 Cypress Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Member Deitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Staff present included City Manager Linda Ruffing, Chief of Police Scott Mayberry and Fire Chief Steve Orsi.

Present: 2 - Scott Deitz and Heidi Kraut

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 14, 2013

A motion was made by Councilmember Deitz, seconded by Councilmember Kraut, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None Received

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discuss Use of Cameras and Laws Regarding Behavior at Bainbridge Park

Public Comment on this item was received from: Bob and Cathy Silva and Elaine Ball.

The following was noted during discussion of this item:

** Different groups of people tend to hang out at Bainbridge Park and neighbors are unsure when to call the Police and what the parameters are for illegal activity at the park.*

** Chief Mayberry let the Committee know that the picnic tables were removed temporarily to fill in holes under them and reseed the grass. It also deters transients from sleeping and hanging out.*

** Chief Mayberry advised that residents should call the Police Department with any suspicious activity, with a time frame or pattern of activity. The Department does extra patrol in the area. Please call if there is activity in the park at night as the park closes an hour after sunset. The surveillance cameras can be reviewed. Contact Elaine Ball or Chief Mayberry directly.*

** There are no locks on the gates currently. The City prefers to not lock any of the parks.*

This Staff Report was returned without recommendation

2. Receive Oral Report from Fire Chief Regarding Status of Countywide Emergency Medical Services/Exclusive Operating Agreement Discussion

The County is trying to resolve the problem with marginal EMS (Emergency Medical Services) in outlying areas such as Elk, Westport and Covelo.

Discussion: The following was noted during discussion of this item:

** The Board of Supervisors can define Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) where standards of services would be developed. A firm was hired to do a study and recommended that there be two EOAs, one for inland and one for the coast. We have good coverage on the coast as far as advanced life support services in our area. The coast is not surrering, although Comptche is a tough area to cover.*

** There is no money to cover the improvement in services that are proposed. The funding mechanism that the Fire Chiefs recommend is that the portion of the sales tax collected by the state for Proposition 172 for Law Enforcement also include emergency medical services. Even if these funds included EMS there is not enough money in the Proposition 172 funds for this project, so the County is recommending an 1/8th of a cent sales tax measure which would be for businesses in the entire county, including the City. City Manager Ruffing suggested a parcel tax as that would target more of the people that would actually be using the services, but that was discussed and had been ruled out. The sales tax increase will most likely not pass.*

** Improving EMS billing services could be another way to improve the success of existing providers. Most of them don't currently bill insurance companies or under bill.*

** The County Supervisors are torn on the issue. The City does not want to get lumped in with the rest of the County so they are trying to keep the City separate.*

** Without an Emergency Operation Agreement (EOA) who responds to calls can't be controlled and the closest unit is the one that gets dispatched. It also creates problems with services that refuse to respond to calls.*

** Chief Orsi received an update from Mike Ciancio who has been attending the meetings and wrote up a report on the issues. He will be attending the meeting on the 19th in Willits. The \$1.45 million a year that has been projected to make this all happen is the minimum amount projected. It is believed that Fort Bragg or Ukiah is not going to vote for the sales tax increase to fund this but they still have to go through the process. The voters may do the talking for the City when it comes to the increase in the sales tax. Once the sales tax effort is turned down then they can go to the County for funding.*

** A quick response vehicle, which can be just a car, could help the Fire Department handle some of the problems.*

** The hospital is taking part in the discussion because if this passes it would impact our local hospital as they would be required to cover a larger area. Mendocino Coast District Hospital currently stages in Mendocino which puts them closer to the south coast areas.*

** A report will go to the Board of Supervisors at the end of January and they will be asked to make a decision about what to do next. Ciancio's report contains much of what will be in front of the Supervisors in their report.*

** Chief Orsi has been communicating with Supervisor Gjerde on the subject. Ruffing will let the Council know if they need to weigh in at some point in the future.*

This Staff Report was returned without recommendation

3. Receive Oral Update on the Police Department from Police Chief

** Police Chief Mayberry provided an update on the activities of the Police Department including staffing, Neighborhood Watch, the Blue Santa program, homeless issues, gang crimes, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) update, and the POST Training audit by the State Controller's office.*

This Staff Report was returned without recommendation

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

** Fire Chief Orsi provided an update on Fire Department membership and improvements to the Little Valley and Highway 20 Stations.*

** Committee Member Deitz mentioned that at the Council meeting last night the City Council authorized applying for a grant to fund access down to the harbor.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. by Committee Member Deitz.