



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2009

7:30 a.m.

Village Green, 47 Hall Street

Attendance: Tom Counts, Don Grubbs, Gary Vest, Eric Fischer and Steve Lutz.

I. K-9 DISCUSSION

Chief Vest informed the Committee that Powell, which is a bedroom community, does not face many of the same safety risks as other larger communities. He stated that a K-9 would be a budget expense and could be utilized in conjunction with drug searches and missing person cases. A K-9 would require a place vehicle to be specially equipped for a dog. He did inform the Committee that police mutual aid agreements permit the department to borrow dogs from other departments if needed.

The Committee asked Chief Vest if a K-9 officer can perform most of the tasks that a regular police officer is capable of performing? The Chief responded that a K-9 officer can do most everything except transporting prisoners due to the modification of the vehicle for the dog.

The Committee inquired what the expense of a K-9 unit would be? Chief Vest stated that the exact cost would have to be determined prior to proceeding with such a proposal.

Tom Counts inquired if the department had the resources would they chose to hire an additional police officer or add a K-9? Chief Vest stated that he most likely would recommend the hiring of an additional officer.

Don Grubbs stated he was still interested in the K-9 proposal and would like to further investigate the cost of adding a K-9. He stated he was interested in getting feedback from citizens on their thoughts regarding a K-9.

Tom Counts stated he was not inclined to investigate further especially based on current budget situations. He stated he would be willing to review this matter further in the future when revenues become stronger.

Chief Vest asked the Committee if they had any interest in pursuing a K-9 if dollars could be raised to offset the expense? Don Grubbs stated that he would be willing to consider such a proposal. Tom Counts stated he would not be inclined to consider such a proposal.

After a brief discussion the Committee reached a consensus that now was not the time to consider a K-9 proposal. They encouraged the Chief to consider the proposal as part of his regular budget process if he so desired. The Committee also stated that future

Community attitude surveys could be utilized to help find out if there is interest in the Community for a dog.

II. WI-FI UPDATE

Eric Fischer updated the Committee regarding the City's downtown Wi-Fi. He stated that this year's budget included the necessary funding to handle the Wi-Fi in house rather than contracting it out.

Don Grubbs inquired whether the City had the personnel to maintain a Wi-Fi system. Eric Fischer stated that the City maintains a consultant agreement to assist with the Wi-Fi.

Don Grubbs inquired as to what kind of use the Wi-Fi has received in the past? Eric Fischer stated one of the problems with Celerity, the company contracted to run the Wi-Fi, was that they never provided the City data as requested.

Don Grubbs inquired whether providing Wi-Fi was cost effective as opposed to contracting it out. Eric Fischer informed the Committee that the City had been spending \$6,000 to \$7,000 a year under the Celerity agreement. He stated that a onetime \$4,000 investment will provide the same service.

The Committee asked Eric as to whether the Wi-Fi will be secure? Eric Fischer informed them that the Splash page would have a similar look and that firewalls and blockers would make for a secure site.

III. DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

The Committee unanimously agreed that the City cannot finance additional benefits at this time and unanimously recommended not to consider adding domestic benefits to the City's benefits.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting at 9:10 a.m.