

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

SPECIAL SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 24, 2023

This Special Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. by Jennifer Wagner, Chairman. Mrs. Field gave an invocation and Mayor Broska led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Justin Ring, Anthony Lombardo, Jon Hannan, Jennifer Wagner, Marianne Glenn, Julie Field

ABSENT: Steve Michniak

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Matt Coffman, IT Network Administrator
Melissa Procop, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MR. MICHNIAK.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Field. Now one had heard from Mr. Michniak about his attendance tonight. Upon voice vote, **motion carried 4-2 with Mr. Ring and Mr. Lombardo opposing the motion.**

Special Business

T-7455 Purchase Two 2024 Dodge Durangos as Police Cruisers

Chief Wain asked for approval to purchase two Dodge Durangos. When she had originally purchased cruisers last year she had said the Police Department would not be looking for money in 2023 for cars, however, these cars were for 2024. If the Department didn't get the approval now, the window for purchase (which would be open for only a day or two the first week or so in August 2023) would be closed and they would not be able to get cruisers for 2024 and it would be probably mid 2025 before they could get any new cars and be off schedule and have about five cruisers well into 100,000 miles.

Mr. Ring understood the timing with the supply chain issues, but he questioned why the department was looking to purchase Dodge Durangos. The Police Department already had Ford Explorers and three Chevy Tahoes, and now this would be a third manufacturer making it hard on the City mechanics to have the parts to service all these vehicles. Chief Wain explained that the department went with Chevy Tahoes last year because those were the only police vehicles on the ground and available. The department had originally preferred the Durangos, which were less expensive and significantly bigger, but couldn't get them last year. Some of the equipment from the Fords will transfer to the Dodge Durangos. The last models of the Fords the department had were giving the department problems and two were currently out for repairs. Mr. Ring didn't want to have a mismatched/hodge-podge fleet of vehicles that would be difficult to maintain. She agreed that going forward the department intended to stay with Dodge Durangos, not Chevys, and would phase out the Fords to avoid that issue.

Matt Miller confirmed these vehicles would be paid for out of the 2023 budget since they were being ordered in 2023, although they wouldn't arrive until later 2024. He said there was 7 months of RITA revenue with 18% of the income tax revenue going into the 401- Capital Fund, and after some preliminary analysis he determined the City would still have over the \$500,000 he liked to keep in the 401- Capital Fund at the end of each year, so the City would be able to absorb this \$88,000 into the 2023 budget even with any planned 4th quarter purchases as long as there wasn't any huge emergency need for any Capital repairs or anything this year. There would not be a transfer of funds from the carryover into the 401- Capital Fund for this vehicle purchase.

Mr. Ring said it seemed to be a pattern now to have to rush and only have a day or two to order the vehicles; it had happened the last three years. The City has had to advance money after initially thinking it would not have to buy cars twice in one year, and that seemed like it would be continuing to keep the fleet up to date. Matt Miller felt it would be a safe practice to set the annual budget with the assumption of the need to buy at least two cars each year. Chief Wain said her error was in thinking that getting cars for 2024 would be to budget for them in 2024, but in reality they needed to be budgeted in the prior year. Last year had been an issue because she had received authorization to purchase Durangos, but none were available, so she had to rush to get authorization in 2023 to get the Chevy Tahoes that were available, and now she needed authorization again to order in 2023 to get the Durangos in 2024. She would order the equipment to outfit the new Durangos and do the graphics in 2024. In 2024 they would also budget for purchasing and upfitting the 2025 vehicles and be back on an annual schedule.

Mayor Broska added that when the City had ordered the fire truck for \$670,000 it was still 2 years away from delivery. He said the stockpiling of parts was not like it used to be; parts were not as interchangeable. The mechanics were more like technicians and used a lot of computer diagnostics, and repairs were usually a new computer chip or something that would not likely be kept in stock on a regular basis. If the cars were under warranty, which these will be, they would go back to the dealer for repair. The mechanics tended to stockpile fluids more than parts because all the vehicles did use the same oil, antifreeze, etc. The City would not have to increase the stockpile of parts for the various makes of vehicles. The cost to upfit each make of car was similar, but the scheduling to get the upfitting work done was difficult because of the difficulty of getting the parts and Hall Public Safety was so busy.

Mayor Broska said it used to be that a police department could order vehicles and they would be delivered within a few weeks, now they may take a year or so to get delivered. The City purchased Chevy Tahoes last year because they were already built and immediately available from Ganley Chevy, but that was not the case now. He was not very concerned about changing brands and having stockpiled parts because these new vehicles would go back to the dealers to be taken care of.

Mrs. Field appreciated that the Police Department needed to get these cars now and take the money out of the 2023 budget to stay on schedule and not have to buy four or more cars next year when the current cars started to wear out. She wondered exactly where the money was coming from. Matt Miller explained again that there was enough money in the 401- Capital Fund to absorb this unplanned 2023 expense. Mr. Ring said it would come from the 401- Capital Fund carryover, not the 101- General Fund carryover.

Chief Wain summarized the fleet for Mrs. Field. The 5 oldest cruisers were Ford Explorers, there were 3 Chevy Tahoes, and 1 pickup truck. The next ones to be replaced were Fords to be replaced with Durangos. Another Ford should be replaced because it was a patrol car that had spent more time in the shop than on the road and was undependable. Mrs. Field didn't like being rushed or having to make vehicle purchases twice in one year, but that was the way of the world now since the pandemic. She was glad there was a replacement schedule and she hoped the City could keep to it. Chief Wain also did not like the rush, but when Officer Herman, her vehicle coordinator, learned from the fleet manager that the one-day purchasing window will be open in less than 30 days, she had to jump on it and get it to Council as soon as possible.

Ms. Wagner commented that other police departments from bigger cities were buying fleets of vehicles at one time, not just a couple at a time; that made the availability even tighter for the smaller communities. Mr. Lombardo acknowledged that Streetsboro was not the only municipality having these purchasing issues. He reminded everyone to consider that when the ambulance(s) needed to be replaced there was a two-year window for delivery, so the money would be needed in the 402- Fire Capital Fund budget two years before getting the vehicle.

MOTION: TO FORWARD THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Ring. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Announcements

There will be a Finance Committee Meeting immediately following this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this Committee, and upon motion by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wagner, Chairman