

Public Safety Advisory Commission
May 14, 2008 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Linda Zaugg, Chair
Karen Cameron
Sharon Chamard
Jim Hubbard
Sam O'Connor
Tony Piper

Genevieve Maurits, Office of Emergency Management
Ross Plummer, Anchorage Police Department
Michelle Weston, Anchorage Fire Department
Jennie Morris, Citizen

I. Call meeting to order

- Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM
- Jennie Morris asked the members to sign thank you cards for the Anchorage Fire Department for hosting the April meeting at Fire Station #3.
- Karen Cameron moves to send letter she drafted from the commission, thanking the Anchorage Fire Department for their efforts while hosting the Commission's April meeting. Sam O'Conner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of minutes for April 9, 2008

- Minutes approved as amended unanimously.

III. Reports

Anchorage Fire Department Deputy Chief Weston

- Thanks
- Fire Department responded to a three alarm fire on May 13 and is still on scene. Gas explosion 2 hours into the response was the closest call AFD has experienced; 20 firefighters were inside the structure at the time. Helmets were blown off and people were blown out the door. Three firefighters were sent to the hospital to be checked out for percussion injuries and everyone is OK. There were no fatalities, the homeowners all evacuated safely and there were no major injuries.
- Recent near miss with a carport pancake collapse. AFD personnel were getting on their gear near the corner of the carport, it collapsed. AFD was very fortunate not to have any injuries in this incident.
- Insurance company investigators and our investigators are on the scene of the May 13 fire to determine cause.

- \$22 million in capital budget; Governor has until May 23rd to determine if she will veto any of it.
- Anchorage Fire Department Open House, Saturday May 31st from 10 AM to 4 PM, at the Fire Training Center 1140 Airport Heights Road. Engine 12 will be put into service this day.
- Station 12 and Training Center renovation plans are with the Purchasing Department. Chief Weston will be attending the Urban Planning Commission meeting
- AFD appealed the decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission and have worked out the issue with the fuel tanks at Station 12. The letter that has been drafted by Chair Zaugg will be helpful for upcoming projects.
- Community Service Patrol (CSP) – AFD and the hospitals have been in dispute over the Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) and when CSP should be accepting inebriants. CSP's policy is currently inebriates with a BrAC of 3.5 and above are not admitted to CSP and taken to a hospital. ANMC will evaluate what they believe is the inebriant's tolerance and discharge them to CSP with a BrAC of greater than 3.5. CSP does not have the staff or facilities to provide good patient care to or ensure safety of extremely intoxicated individuals. CSP will be playing a video of the facility at the next MAB meeting.
- In response to a Commission member's question about Chief Goodrich's address to the Assembly concerning the audit of AFD's payroll, Chief Weston explained that no AFD member has been over paid. The issue came up due to department reorganization in April 2007. Certain members previously working 56 hour work weeks were placed in 40 hour schedules. They were paid the same net wage, so the appearance is of overpayment. This issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the auditors and Assembly.

Anchorage Police Department Deputy Chief Plummer

- Academy – 24 recruits have moved into Field Training.
- Next Academy will begin approximately May 26th with 17 recruits.
- APD hopes to have the last Academy of the year start in December, but may be held off till January for budget reasons.
- Significance is Mayor Begich made a plan with then Chief Monegan for net increase of 93 officers. Graduating 16-20 officers with the last cycle of the year will reach that goal.
- Attrition factors in; there are actually 100 new officers.
- 32 started most recent cycle, 25 graduated to field training, one resigned after 2 days of FTO.
- 2007 Crime Report not released yet by the Mayors office.
 - Homicides increased by 16-20%
 - Sexual Assault increased, 30 reports in 2007 – an approximately 14% increase
 - All other major crimes decreased in 2007
 - Aggravated assault down by 10%, reinforcing the feel of the officers on the street that the gangs are being held in check.

- DWI arrests increased, 1900 arrests in 2007, trend was downward for the past 5 years.
- Over 1000 arrests for DWI so far this year, if this trend continues, could see 2000 arrests in 2008.
- Anchorage had a spike of pedestrian, bicycle and DWI fatalities; this year is lower -- 4 fatalities this year to date and there was 8 fatalities last year at this time.
- APD has \$17 million in the Capital budget waiting for the Governor's approval.
- Did not receive money in the budget for an outdoor range.

Office of Emergency Management, Genevieve Maurits

- University of Alaska Fairbanks installed a "Shake" Map in the EOC, a computer based earthquake map. EOC will receive training. The map is centered on Alaska, but the most recent earthquakes in China were visible on the map.
- Behavioral Health Summit; 50-70 attended
 - Foundations of Disaster
 - Psychological First Aid
- Post Disaster Assessment Course 5/31 from 9 AM -12 PM
- Vulnerable population data base now at Anchor Rides who will co-manage the database with EOC. This new database allows users to search addresses and create routes quickly. There is no change to the "public" side of the database.

IV. Old Business

Surveillance Cameras

- Discussion about surveillance cameras and if the Commission wishes to revisit this issue.
- Chair Zaugg points out that public reaction will be the same to cameras at intersections.
- Sharon Chamard commented that it would be very expensive to have video of a quality that could be used for evidence and the resources and personnel needed would be prohibitive. Perhaps just in hot spots?
- Sam O'Connor suggests that a streaming type video that was available for citizens to view and report any crimes witnessed. This could also be a tool for police.
- Sharon Chamard pointed out that the commission was briefed on the limitations of streaming video and recorded video, that there was not enough resources to do this.
- Tony Piper comments that it is cost prohibitive, the return is not worth the investment.
- Sam O'Connor recalled a murder case in downtown that the suspect was identified from a bar's security camera.
- Ross Plummer agrees that security cameras from businesses are an excellent resource for APD. He suggested a community approach, perhaps a tax break for a business having a security camera.

- Jim Hubbard comments that from a DHS perspective, having open access video such as live streaming over the internet is not desirable. DHS has had to stop video and pictures going out over the internet due to critical infrastructure being displayed.
- Chair Zaugg inquires if Deputy Chief Plummer is aware of any other municipal or other governments offering an incentive such as suggested; he indicated he is not aware of any.
- Sharon Chamard suggested that this could be part of a land use ordinance, it could fit into Title 21
- Chair Zaugg asks Sam O'Connor to look into the issue and do some research about any incentives being offered by local governments to businesses that have surveillance cameras. Mr. O'Connor agreed to do so.

Scofflaw

- Citizen Jennie Morris reports that she is still negotiating with Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety John Glass for the use of Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) to house the Municipality Of Anchorage's Scofflaw list. DPS does not allow the use of APSIN for this purpose. Chair has suggested Ms. Morris contact the State Attorney General for assistance.
- Progress since the implementation of the Scofflaw ordinance: 23 cars impounded by APD.
- Ms. Morris complements the Anchorage Police Department, comments they are doing a good job.

V. New Business

- Karen Cameron requested Sharon Chamard make a presentation at the next meeting. The topic will be an overview of Dr. Chamard's expertise in the area of Public Safety. Dr. Chamard agreed and will be on the agenda for the June 11th meeting.
- Jim Hubbard
 - Week of 6/3-6 FEMA will conduct training on the continuity of operations. This is open to agencies and corporate interests of homeland security.
 - Defense support to civil authorities, 6/23-27. How Civilian authorities can gain assistance in disasters. Dave Woods of Alcom for arrangements.
- Tony Piper
 - Town hall meeting on 5/15 from 7PM to 9PM at Beth Shalom, topic is underage drinking.

VI. Adjournment

Sam O'Connor made a motion for adjournment, Karen Cameron seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

VII. Next meeting June 11, 2008