

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 12, 2007

The minutes of the proceedings of a joint meeting of the Coos County Board of Commissioners and the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Jeff McKeown and Councilors Michele Burnette, Mark Daily, Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Stephanie Kramer, John Muenchrath, Commissioners John Griffith and Kevin Stufflebean. City staff present were City Manager Chuck Freeman, Clerk to the Council Jackie Mickelson, Assistant City Manager Joyce Jansen, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Parking Control Officer Helen Thompson, Support Services Supervisor Linda Mitchell, and Police Chief Eura Washburn.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor McKeown opened the meeting and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

Welcome by Board Chair Griffith and Mayor McKeown

Commissioner Griffith commented Chief Washburn requested the County consider combining the two local Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) Centers, and the County had agreed to consider the idea. Mayor McKeown welcomed Commissioners Griffith and Stufflebean and expressed his appreciation for the Commissioners considering the idea of combining the two PSAP Centers.

Report on Background and Status of the 911 Centers and Discussion of Current Analysis

Civilian Police Assistant Helen Thompson gave a brief presentation on the potential benefits of combining the Coos County and Coos Bay PSAP Centers. Ms. Thompson reported since the 1980's, the 911 and dispatch centers throughout the United States had been successfully combined. Ms. Thompson reported by combining the 911 resources and personnel, it would increase efficiency, shore-up public safety, and possibly save costs. Ms. Thompson reported the two critical reasons for combining the centers were because for the first time both centers use the same computerized record system and with the elimination of timber payments, it had left large gaps in budgets forcing personnel reductions. Ms. Thompson briefly reviewed the benefits of public safety, levels of services, potential cost savings, collaboration, and professionalism.

Finance Director Janell Howard reported based on a January 2006 GeoComm study, the cost for 21 dispatchers and 3 supervisors would be approximately \$1.7 million. The forecasted savings for a combined center of 16 dispatchers, 2 supervisors and a director would be approximately \$300,000 annually. Police Chief Eura Washburn commented the benefits for the administrator would be to return to the primary mission of prevention of crime and to be involved with the community organizations, neighborhoods, schools, and drug team. Chief Washburn commented there were also benefits for the Fire Department and medical services. Chief Washburn recommended an interim two to three years of combining the centers and to hire a

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director. The next step would be to retain an implementation team to develop specific steps to address the location of the combined PSAP center, equipment needed, start up costs, and funding sources. Mayor McKeown commented with the two PSAP Centers struggling financially and the importance of public safety, it made sense to consider the combining the centers. There was discussion by the Councilors and Commissioners on cost savings, quality of service, and benefits of combining the centers.

Rick Thaxton commented he was retired from the sheriff's office and if there was a change in classification it would affect the retirement of those current employees. Jack Hoffman, Joint Intergovernmental County 911 PSAP chairman, commented he represented approximately 24 rural agencies and cities to the south. Mr. Hoffman commented he would be in favor of combining the centers and would like to be involved in the process. Connie Barton, Green Acres Fire Board member, commented she was in favor of combining the PSAP centers. Theresa Thaxton, Coos County 911 supervisor, expressed her concern of the 12 hour shifts for the dispatchers, and commented she was not in favor of combining the PSAP centers. Mick Sneddon, Charleston Fire Chief, commented the rural fire districts were utilizing the south county dispatch center and were paying for the service from district funds. He expressed concern of a cost increase if the centers were combined.

Tia Akers, Coos Bay communications supervisor, reported recently the governor signed a bill that dispatchers were now covered under police and fire retirement. She commented the 12 hours shifts were a six month trial for the dispatchers, and the employees chose to keep the 12 hour shifts. Linda Mitchell, Coos Bay Police Department, expressed her appreciation for the rural fire agencies, and noted it was important to have representatives at the PSAP meetings. Rick Saxton recommended the 911 Intergovernmental Council and the Southwestern Oregon Fire Chiefs Association President Jim Aldrich as representatives.

Discussion on Next Step

Mayor McKeown commented he would like to move forward and form an implementation team and come back with a recommendation to this body. It was a consensus of the council and commissioners to form a joint committee with Mayor McKeown, Commissioner Griffith, and Councilors Michele Burnette and Jon Eck to research combining the PSAP centers.

Public Comments

No public comments were given.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor McKeown adjourned the meeting.

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Jeff McKeown, Mayor

Attest:

Jackie Mickelson, Clerk to the Council