

1 **Minutes of the**
2 **Public Safety Committee Budget Review Meeting**

3 Bountiful City Public Safety Building

4 April 8, 2021 (4:00 p.m.)
5

6 Present:

7 Committee Members: Chris R. Simonsen (Chair), Millie Segura Bahr,
8 Kendalyn Harris, Kate Bradshaw
9 City Manager: Gary Hill
10 Assistant City Manager: Galen Rasmussen
11 Police Department Staff: Ed Biehler, Dave Edwards, Troy Killian, David Gill,
12 Kathy Lovoi, Desiree Hamblin, Chris Young, Aric
13 Barker
14 South Davis Fire Staff: Dane Stone
15

16 Official Notice of this meeting had been given by posting a written notice of same and an agenda at
17 the City Hall and providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County
18 Clipper, Standard Examiner, and on the Utah Public Notice Website.
19

20 Committee chair Chris R. Simonsen called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., welcomed those in
21 attendance and asked for a roll call of those present.

22 **PRESENTATION OF SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE AGENCY BUDGET**

23 Chief Dane Stone was invited to present the budget request from South Davis Metro Fire Agency.
24 Chief Stone reviewed the organization of the Agency and outlined the funding for fire services which
25 are in part from a property tax assessment and direct assessments to member cities based on
26 population. The major roles and critical functions of the Agency were reviewed as follows:

- 27
- Fire protection services.
 - Paramedic and emergency response.
 - Wildland fire prevention and protection.
- 29

30 As follow-up to a question from the committee, further explanation of the wildland fire prevention
31 function was provided. Involvement of Agency crews coupled with interaction support from other
32 federal, state and local agencies is needed to fulfill this critical function.

33 Fiscal priorities include a change in the taxation structure for paramedic services which is coming. The
34 County will cease their tax levy and the Agency will then need to pick up that levy via a Truth-in-
35 Taxation process as required by law. An additional tax increase is also being sought by the Agency for
36 the addition of three new positions. Two of the new positions will be dedicated to training and the
37 other position will be dedicated to logistics. The Agency is a completely full-time operation.

1 Another fiscal priority of the Agency is to replace the station alert system which is outdated and no
2 longer supported from a technology standpoint. Plans for meeting Agency funding needs include use
3 of CARES Act or similarly available federal funding. About \$165,000 is anticipated to be available from
4 Bountiful City.

5 The direct Agency assessment to Bountiful City is anticipated to be \$2,375,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-
6 2022 which is a \$200,000 increase over the current fiscal year. The tentative budget for the City
7 includes this amount. Chief Stone was asked if the Agency is fully staffed now and to report on the
8 status of equipment and facilities. It was noted by Chief Stone that there is always some employee
9 being educated through the fire academy but that the Agency is fully staffed. Equipment and stations
10 are being maintained and are in good shape. A new engine for dual use in wildland fire and structures
11 was recently purchased. Following the discussion and no further questions Chief Stone was thanked
12 for his presentation and excused from the meeting.

13 The Committee members conferred and decided to make one motion at the end of the meeting to
14 consider all budgets for approval.

15 **PRESENTATION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

16 Chief Ed Biehler provided an overview of department operations and including a mention of the
17 process of budget development which includes an internal budget committee. Major roles and critical
18 functions as noted in the tentative budget document include:

- 19 • Enforcement of federal, state, and local laws.
- 20 • Providing public safety for residents and visitors.
- 21 • Providing dispatch services for five local police agencies and the fire agency.
- 22 • Managing emergencies that arise in the City.
- 23 • Providing records management services and reports.

24 Fiscal Year priorities for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 include:

- 25 • A transition to a new CAD/RMS/Mobile software platform.
- 26 • Replacing, training, and developing new supervisory staff due to former Chief Tom Ross'
27 retirement.
- 28 • Continuing with countywide discussions regarding dispatch services (currently 4 dispatch
29 centers – Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) serve needs countywide).
- 30 • Complete the Utah Chief's of Police Association accreditation program (a cost that will be paid
31 for by the City's insurance broker)
- 32 • Promoting healthy practices to maintain a healthy workplace.

1 Budget categories and line items of note were reviewed with explanations provided for variances.
2 Questions from the Committee were asked regarding the methodology for making staffing market
3 adjustments. Gary Hill addressed the committee on this issue. Big market adjustments are avoided
4 by the City providing an annual cost-of-living allowance (COLA). Market analysis is made periodically
5 to ensure that the City remains competitive with other agencies in its compensation and benefits to
6 retain qualified employees. The last market analysis was completed about five years ago for the
7 department. The committee and City Council overall was thanked by Gary for supporting a COLA to
8 retain qualified staff citywide.

9 A question was asked regarding Animal Control Services and the effect of recent legislation that would
10 transfer all costs and responsibility of animal control to the County. Gary Hill noted that there will be
11 a requirement to adjust the property tax rate in each community to comply with the law in about a
12 year. The County is still evaluating its plans for compliance with the new law but will be taking over
13 the functions with a revenue stream coming from the property tax and the fiscal burden will be
14 alleviated from other taxing entities. It was noted by committee members that response on calls from
15 Animal Control at the County have sometimes not been prompt based on citizen complaints received.

16 A review of department statistics was made with regard to individual classifications of cases and
17 multi-year averages. Questions from the committee included a request for definitions and
18 clarification of some of the classifications in the statistics and possible explanations for notable
19 variances and trends. Simple Assaults were down quite dramatically in 2020 along with lower totals in
20 traffic incidents. The lower traffic incident totals were deemed to be down due to reduced traffic
21 volume on the streets as more people were working from home or were avoiding outside travel due
22 to the pandemic.

23 Chief Biehler noted that use of force is about 0.06% of the time. About 1.6% of the time use of force
24 is employed in an arrest. This could be physical force, use of a taser, or pepper spray depending on
25 the situation. A use of force review is made after every use of force incident. Committee members
26 expressed appreciation for the manner in which officers handle cases. A final note was made that
27 there are only two cold cases left on the records with two possible leads being pursued.

28 A question was asked of Desiree Hamblin about the environment in the dispatch center particularly
29 during the pandemic. She noted that the calls varied but were largely domestic in nature. Some
30 dispatchers came down ill during the time but all was handled in the best manner possible. An
31 additional question was asked this time of Chief Biehler regarding the plans for holding neighborhood
32 events to have police meet with the community. This will be continued as soon as health and safety
33 conditions permit.

34 It was noted that phone calls have been received on activities in parks at night (skateboarding, etc.) by
35 committee members. Given this, the committee inquired as to measures in place to monitor and

1 respond. Chief Biehler noted that as the police are made aware of issues they respond by extra
2 patrols and related measures. There were also concerns expressed with speeding in areas of the City
3 and Chief Biehler responded on means they typically use to investigate and respond.

4 A favorable report was given on the effect of police in the schools by the committee.

5 The officers present (Chris Young and Aric Barker) were asked on how they feel about police work in
6 the community. Appreciation was expressed by them for the opportunity to work in the community.
7 While there is a mix of experience, officers overall feel appreciated by the community. Following the
8 committee's discussion the committee members thanked Chief Biehler and staff for their
9 contributions to the City.

10 Committee member Harris made a motion to accept the tentative budget submission of the South
11 Davis Metro Fire Agency and Police Department as presented, and Committee Bahr member
12 seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Simonsen, Bahr and Harris
13 voting "aye".

14 The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on a motion made by Committee member Bahr and seconded by
15 Committee member Harris. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Simonsen, Bahr and
16 Harris voting "aye".