

City of Watseka
201 Brianna Dr
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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 14TH, 2023
6:30 PM

PRESENT: Aldermen Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Garfield, Miller, Alderwoman Musk, and Mayor Allhands

ABSENT: Alderwoman Rohlf

GUESTS: Resident Justin Rogers, Assistant Fire Chief Nick Peters, Nita Dubble with the Police Commission and Police Chief Jeremy Douglas, and Eric Raymond 911 Director

Alderman Barragree opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. During public comment Resident Justin Rogers who lives at 514 S 5th St asked the committee to consider residents to have poultry. This will be put on the full council agenda.

Auxiliary Officer Mark Garfield stated the Auxiliary Department meeting for the month was a work night with cleaning being done. He also reported the department helped with traffic control for the railroad incident. Mayor Allhands stated the departments should get hours together and this will be discussed during full council about billing the railroad for those hours for traffic control.

Assistant Fire Chief Nick Peters stated the department had 2 fires, 7 lift assists, 4 ambulance, 1 motor vehicle accident, 5 automatic alarms, 1 autoaid call, 1 CO alarm, and 4 other gas leaks/down line calls for the month of February. Training for February consisted of ice rescue review, rig maintenance, train derailment table top, hydrant dressing, annual fit testing, annual CPR refresher class. Assistant Chief Peters stated the EMT B class is still ongoing and the department has also received 2 new applications. The department has purchased straps to marry up tools and 3 pressurized water extinguishers. The department has been installing smoke detectors in homes but are now waiting for more to arrive from the state. He stated several of the detectors were installed in the firemen's home first. The department is expecting the monitor for the ambulance any day now and the cot is about 2 weeks out yet.

Nita Dubble with the Police Commission spoke next. She stated they did not have a meeting this month. They have advertised for more applications and they are due at month end. She also stated there is a conference in Springfield in May that she is hoping the other members will attend. Nita gave a quick update on the 911 equipment/dispatch. She stated in 1998 the city and the county each paid \$125,000. She stated for 9 years the city cost was \$120,000 a year. She went on to say the dispatchers are county employees. The cost to the city is for the dispatchers only no equipment.

Eric Raymond 911 director spoke next. He gave everyone on the committee a copy of the budget and then explained how the budget works. He stated the current phone system needs replaced and they will apply for grant monies for that. The department does get money from the ¼ sales tax and from cell phones. There was discussion that the smaller communities don't

pay into this. Mayor Allhands stated in the future CBA negotiations he would like to have 2 City Alderman on this Committee and possibly the Police Chief. Mr. Raymond stated the ETSB has 1.1 million in the bank but there are many projects that need done and these funds will go quickly. He also stated that the dispatch center needs to stay local and not consolidate.

Alderman Marcier makes a motion to recommend to the Council to accept the 911 agreement at \$126,000 and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.

Police Chief Jeremy Douglas stated his department had 312 calls for service during February. Chief stated Sgt. Puleo has attended a 1 week juvenile school and more officers will be attending mandated classes soon. Chief reported the new cloud based storage cameras are up and running and are working out nicely.

Chief then stated that one of the Tahoe's needed a new alternator and the a/c went out. Some of the maintenance is now starting to run out of warranty and he thinks the department should be looking at new vehicles soon. Chief Douglas stated the application process for new hires has been extended as only 5 or 6 apps have gone out and only 3 turned back in so far. Alderman Marcier asked about the body and car cams and Chief stated its still a work in progress.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to adjourn and Alderman Miller seconded. Roll call carried 7-0.

Brandon Barragree, Chairman