

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
September 12, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the workshop meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 12, 2016.

ROLL CALL

The following attended the meeting:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager

Ramsey County

Sheriff Department: Terry Soukkala, Undersheriff, Public Safety Services
Ty Sheridan

Sheriff Matt Bostrom arrived later in the meeting.

Lake Johanna Fire

Department: Fire Chief Tim Boehlke

North Suburban

Tobacco

Compliance

Project: Katie Engman, Project Director
Kristin Merter

DISCUSSION WITH RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Soukkala briefly described the five divisions in the Sheriff's office. The Public Safety Division covers patrol of the contract cities and also volunteers in community services, investigation and water patrol. The Courts and Security Division is downtown in the courthouse for civil and criminal process. The Detention Division has a facility that houses up to 500 inmates. The Regional Services Division works with multiple agencies with countywide functions. Conflict cases are handed over to Washington County, and Ramsey County handles conflict cases from Washington County. The Administration Division works with all divisions.

Over the last several years the general investigations caseload has doubled with the same number of investigators. This is the reason another investigator position is being added. Also, new staff

work proactively and make more arrests which increases the caseload. There are 37 deputies to answer patrol calls in the seven cities, six sergeants and one commander.

Mayor Martin noted that the outreach programs that were established before recent serious issues with law enforcement surfaced have been very effective and has helped to put a human face on law enforcement in the community.

Undersheriff Soukkala stated that reaction to the outreach programs has residents thanking officers almost on a daily basis. The 'Coffee with a Cop' program started in California. The concept was incorporated here. Every entity contacted--McDonald's, Caribou Coffee, Panera Bread--has been very receptive. It was decided that during cold weather, deputies will do the Coffee with a Cop inside with citizens. When it is warm, they will set up a trailer and do 'Hot Dog with a Deputy' in a park. Seven hot dog events were held this year.

The Sheriff's Citizens' Academy had 27 Ramsey County participants for six 3.5-hour sessions. The work done with Scouting Bay, the Lake Johanna Fire Department, military, National Guard, and public works were very well received. A survey was done of Neighborhood Watch signs. Eventually there will be new signs.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked if there would be an academy for newly elected officials. She suggested doing it every 4 years and emphasized how helpful it was to her. Undersheriff Soukkala stated that it can be done, but resources are needed. Other outreach programs that are being done include: After School Outreach, Community Emergency Response Team, Tobacco Compliance, Earth Week, Shoreview Citizens Academy assistance, School Patrol Recognition Event which brings out 1,000 kids. This year Night to Unite was a record year with 174 events and 63 deputies collecting school supplies. The SecureNet program is a system of public cameras that businesses can sign up to be on in case a crime occurs. The Sheriff's Department can look up the owner of the camera and contact the business directly without having to go door to door to find them. This saves a lot of time.

Councilmember Johnson stated that Next Door is a program that is gaining traction as opposed to Neighborhood Watch because there is an instant connection to neighbors that is technologically driven. It is geographically based. Young families especially use these tools.

Undersheriff Soukkala noted that trailer theft is happening wherever there is a construction site. Officers are working proactively to set up a trailer to entice thieves so they can be caught. The Prescription Drug Drop Table is a nonstop flow.

Another reason for the budget increase is there was no contract for deputies, sergeants and commanders for 2015, 2016 and 2017. A proposal of consecutive increases for those years was 2%, 2.5% and 2.6% and was submitted to arbitration. Commanders won 3.2% as of January 2015 and made it retroactive. Sergeants and Deputies won 3.2% spread over 3 years through 2017. Mr. Schwerm added that the County has no say in arbitration decisions. Future budgets after 2017 have not been determined.

Undersheriff Soukkala stated that technology is RAIDS Online, which has a tutorial and crime mapping information. Efforts are being made to get the best information possible to the public. A new records management system will be coming on line. Eventually Everbridge will replace Code Red. It will be used for a community notification system. It is also used internally. All types of units and teams can be paged from one system.

Councilmember Quigley noted that the Community Survey response to public safety has been fairly consistent over the years. He asked what response can be given to politicization that has made the image of police more negative. Undersheriff Soukkala responded that a study was done of Minnesota communities and 86% surveyed reported a positive image of their local police department.

Mayor Martin stated that the biggest item in the City's budget is Public Safety, but she has received very few calls regarding policing in the city. She has received no complaints. People are well served and satisfied. She wants the Department to know how much they are appreciated.

Councilmember Johnson stated that it is not common for the police and firefighters work together as they do here. She commended Undersheriff Soukkala and his department and stated that the budget needs to be supported.

Councilmember Quigley asked the type of training given to first responders. Undersheriff Soukkala stated that the training is done in-house and focuses on certifying skills, such as CPR, AD, and oxygen therapy, rather than state certification which is more expensive. Mr. Schwerm noted that the Fire Department duty crews, who now respond to all medical calls, allows the Sheriff's Department to be on the street doing police work.

Undersheriff Soukkala emphasized that in each investigation, no matter what it is, the Department feels it owes citizens the best job possible. While prepared to use force if needed, officers are trained to give respect and compassion. A lot of training scenarios are practiced to use best practices.

Mayor Martin noted that Sheriff Matt Bostrom arrived at the meeting. He stated that budget priorities are for the market increase for deputies. Investigations are prioritized. He stated that the quality of life is broken when cars are broken into for valuables. In addition to theft, this problem destabilizes a community. It is wise to invest in those occurrences.

Sheriff Bostrom stated that there are 3,020 counties in the country and 87 counties in Minnesota. Ramsey County Communications Center handles over 1 million calls a year. Approximately 350,000 are dispatched. There are thousands of traffic stops, and many proactive site visits, stopping drug dealers. Extraordinary police work is going on. It is important for people to be treated well and have positive contact with the police. There is constant work to get better and improve relationships with the public.

Councilmember Springhorn asked the number of deputies on patrol overnight. Undersheriff Soukkala answered that 11 are out on a rotation basis of 10-hour shifts. Mr. Schwerm stated that

Shoreview pays for cars No.2362 and 2364, and a proportional share of a two-person traffic division. The two deputies strictly focus on traffic. Shoreview pays approximately 30% of the cost of the seven contract cities. There is an additional deputy for the afternoon peak call period seven days a week. Costs are allocated according to where the calls originate.

Mayor Martin again stressed that the Department's outreach is significant and that all efforts make a difference.

DISCUSSION WITH LAKE JOHANNA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Tim Boehlke stated that the first firefighters were all volunteers and built the first fire station themselves in 1943. By the time cities incorporated in this area in the 1950s, there were two fire stations. In the early years there was only basic training. The Fire Department is called for everything--fires, floods, wires down, hazardous materials, medical emergencies. Basic training has expanded into state certification at different levels. It became difficult to ask volunteers to do the job.

In order to fulfill services requested, a trained duty crew was started to staff fire stations at all times. This change has helped a lot. For the first time, firefighters have a set schedule. There is faster response time with better trained and qualified firefighters. At this time the duty crew system is working well. In another 10 to 20 years more full-time positions will likely be needed. Now the City is getting the service of a career Fire Department using part-time paid on-call people.

Last year there were 2,875 calls. Of those calls, 70% were EMS calls. Using all four fire stations, 75 firefighters and 18 trucks collectively among the four cities is a benefit that is saving money for each city. The Sheriff's Department and Allina are partners in this work. A lot of integrated training has taken place to be able to work well together. Mr. Boehlke expects that 2016 will end with over 3,300 calls. All firefighters are state certified and most are EMTs. There are 8 paramedics and 3 EMRs. The new national level is EMT with no First Responders.

Mayor Martin asked the reason the Fire Department has assumed more and more responsibility for medical calls. Mr. Schwerm responded that Chief Boehlke did not want duty crews sitting at the station. The actual number of working fire calls are relatively small. Medical training to respond to medical calls has proven worthwhile, as 70% of calls are medical. Firefighters can ride to the hospital and leave police officers available in the community.

Mr. Schwerm stated that over the next year Station No. 1 will be closed. Proposals are being accepted for sale of the property. Mr. Boehlke stated that the proceeds will go to the Fire Department General Fund. That will help buy down capital purchases. Mr. Schwerm noted that there are auto aid agreements with Vadnais Heights and Roseville. Structure fires have those two cities automatically responding.

Mr. Boehlke stated that five dispatching units in the county have been consolidated to one. Most vehicles have a computer that gives call information. In about a month, the County will begin closest unit dispatching for structure fires and cardiac arrests. A vehicle in Shoreview that is

closer than the Little Canada Fire Department will automatically be a responder to the call. The types of calls that could be added in the future would be strokes, drownings, and serious bleeds if neighboring communities agree.

Mayor Martin asked if this is the last year, with the duty crew in place, for large budget increases. Mr. Boehlke stated that next year an administrative position will be requested to help with technology management. The full implementation of the Duty Crew has now taken place.

Councilmember Johnson stated that as the City representative, she is impressed with Mr. Boehlke's leadership and the work done by the Lake Johanna Fire Department.

DISCUSSION WITH NORTH SUBURBAN TOBACCO COMPLIANCE PROJECT

Mr. Schwerm stated that in a previous meeting the focus was on compliance check data and minimum pricing on cigars, cigarillos and flavored tobacco products. Staff met with four or five tobacco vendors who were not supportive of minimum pricing because it puts them at an economic disadvantage to other cities. The products could then be purchased cheaper at other establishments. One option proposed was to require vendors to have identification readers to read drivers licenses. Almost all vendors request ID, but once ID is provided it is not always checked accurately and given back to the purchaser without checking age. The card readers are \$300 to \$400. Another option discussed was limiting youth access by restricting all flavored tobacco sales to tobacco shops. Youth are not allowed in tobacco shops. Both Minneapolis and St. Paul have implemented this action. Staff believes this would take all flavored products out of convenience stores.

Councilmember Springhorn asked if vendors would be opposed to restricting sales altogether. Mr. Schwerm stated he thinks the flavored tobacco products are a small item. It would be significant if no cigarette sales were allowed. Some vendors feel that they would lose customers who stop in to not only get flavored tobacco but also gas and other items. They can pick up everything at one place. Those customers may go elsewhere if flavored tobacco is not allowed to be sold.

Ms. Engman stated that it is known that 90% of sales are cigarettes. 5% include menthol and other products. It is estimated that 2% is flavored tobacco. Economically, the impact would be small, but restricting flavored product to tobacco shops would greatly impact youth use. She reported that both Minneapolis and St. Paul have restricted flavored tobacco to only in tobacco shops and also adopted minimum pricing. There was hardly a response to pricing. All the comment was on the flavored tobacco sales.

Quigley asked the reason for using menthol. Ms. Engman explained that doctors prescribe menthol to soothe sore throats from use of regular tobacco. It is considered a regular form of tobacco.

Mayor Martin stated that she received supportive letters for the Council to take a leadership role on this problem. She would like to make a move on restricting flavored tobacco sales but not menthol.

She would be willing to put the ordinance on the Council agenda and notify tobacco vendors. Also there would be an outreach to those supportive of such an ordinance for a fair hearing.

It was the consensus of the Council to propose an ordinance to limit flavored tobacco sales to tobacco shops only. Notices of 30 days will be sent to licensed tobacco vendors about the ordinance change. Public comment can be taken at the Council meeting when this matter is considered. Mr. Schwerm stated that if an ordinance is adopted, notice can be given regarding when it will take effect.

Motion by Councilmember Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Martin adjourned the meeting.