

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2022 6pm

Eldridge City Hall

Mayor King calls meeting to order at 6pm

Roll call shows committee members present: Frank King, Bruce Cheek, Dan Collins, Keith Schneckloth, Joe Sisler, Tony Rupe

Guests present: Andrew Lellig, Tim Martinek, Dave Engler, Chris Hulscher, Mark Radolfi

Mayor King called on Fire Chief Keith Schneckloth to give a department update. Keith Schneckloth presented a call volume trend chart. The chart shows an anticipated 1000 calls per year in the next 3-4 years. Fire department currently has 22 members. Chief Schneckloth feels that this is becoming more than a volunteer department. One option would be for the city to add a paid employee to the department. One deterrent to the department is that volunteers are difficult to come by. Many residents don't even know that the department is volunteer. A paid employee would estimate working 25 hour per week just on the fire side doing administrative work. EFD feels the that their immediate is the one, full time employee from 8-5. They feel that would carry them for a minimum of 3 years.

Outside of the full-time employee, the department would like to have a serious discussion about what is the next step?? At what point will this no longer be a volunteer department.

Mayor King asked the department to provide some information from other departments that may have a similar situation as what is being presented. EFD plans to provide the city with more information. Councilman Cheek would like to see if the city can assist advertising for volunteers.

Chief Sisler announced that the police department has an open position and is requesting to fill the open position with a certified officer due to the one opening that we currently have. This potential officer has several certifications that would benefit the city and is also and experienced grant writer. He would be eligible for the \$3,000 certified officer sign on bonus....\$1,500 at hire and \$1,500 at the end of one year.

Another concern is when training classes get canceled. The funds go back into the general fund. Chief Sisler does not understand why the refunds do not go back into their training budget.

Bruce Cheek would like to address Civil Service. Chief Sisler brought up the difficulties with dealing with landlords and tenants. Chief Sisler stated that running a department under the current budget is extremely difficult. The need for a potential new facility also was discussed. Chief Sisler stated that the need applies to both the city department as well as city hall.

Deputy Chief Lellig would like to implement a K-9 unit in the future. He would like to do this with all grants and donations. He will prepare a proposal for the council to consider.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 pm