

MINUTES
JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION
County Government Center Board Room
101 Mounts Bay Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
September 26, 2017
4:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Ruth M. Larson, Vice Chairman, Berkeley District
Michael J. Hipple, Powhatan District
P. Sue Sadler, Stonehouse District
John J. McGlennon, Roberts District
Kevin D. Onizuk, Chairman, Jamestown District

Bryan J. Hill, County Administrator
Adam R. Kinsman, County Attorney

C. BOARD DISCUSSIONS

1. Fire Overview

Mr. Hill introduced Mr. Tristan Aiken, Business Manager.

Mr. Aiken addressed the Board with an overview of Fire Department staffing and some career ladder changes that have been put in place this fiscal year, as detailed in the Agenda Packet. He described changes that have been made to meet staffing goals, reduce overtime costs, increase retention and have a more competitive salary structure. For the first time in 60 months, the Fire Department has exceeded its staffing goal and the need for overtime to staff stations has been reduced by more than half.

Mr. Hipple stated that this is not something that has just come up all of a sudden, but is something that has been worked on over a couple of years to allow better management of money and fire personnel and to be staffed fully in order to serve the citizens of James City County. He noted that the changes also allow the Fire Department to recruit better qualified firefighters, which in turn saves money on training. He commended staff on their work in implementing these changes.

Mr. McGlennon asked if the changes have had any impact on response time.

Chief Ryan Ashe, Fire Chief, responded that the changes have not impacted response times because being a 24/7 operation, the equipment is always

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staffed; however, previously it was staffed at a higher cost, using more overtime dollars.

Mr. Hill added that 80% of calls are within the Primary Service Area (PSA) and in the Comprehensive Plan it states that the response time within the PSA is six minutes.

Ms. Larson asked what the plan is to keep this going in the future.

Chief Ashe replied that staff is constantly monitoring overtime hours and turnover. Additionally, he meets monthly with fire chiefs in the region to keep up-to-date on what is happening in other localities and the compensation study that is currently underway will help maintain competitive salaries. He also noted that if adjustments need to be made, proposals will be brought to Mr. Hill and the Board.

Mr. Hill reported that an application called Business Intelligence is being worked on to help the Police Department and Fire Department with service calls. He also commented on the holistic approach the County is taking to improve its operations and emphasized the importance of retaining staff to be able to continue providing high quality services to citizens.

2. Fire and Police 911 Upgrade

Mr. Hill introduced Chief Ashe and Chief Bradley Rinehimer, Chief of Police, to speak about the County's emergency communications system.

Chief Ashe addressed the Board with an overview of the regional radio system, details of which are included in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Onizuk asked if there would be any benefit to adding other localities to the link.

Chief Ashe replied that the system requires the same software platform and localities have to be willing to come to the table to negotiate.

Chief Rinehimer addressed the Board with a presentation on the plan for future technologies as included in the Agenda Packet. He described how technology helps staff operate more efficiently and safely, but also leads to new types of crime because as technology changes so do the opportunities for people to take advantage of those technologies. Additionally, with advancements in technology, citizen expectations increase.

Mr. McGlennon asked if new methods have been put in place to utilize the data that officers are collecting with new technology.

Chief Rinehimer described the Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX), which allows police departments all over the country access to a searchable database.

Ms. Larson asked how the County can keep up cost-wise with new technology and what kind of costs in general are anticipated.

Chief Rinehimer answered that over time technology prices come down and it will depend on when new technology is acquired. He was unable to give a dollar estimate in terms of anticipated costs for future technology.

Mr. Hill added that the County has to be prepared to handle things as they come up and explained that by striving now to get the infrastructure in place it will not be as big a burden later on. He noted that the goal is to keep ahead of the curve and not fall behind.

Ms. Larson pointed out that it also helps when cost efficiencies are realized to be able to put those funds toward new technology.

Mr. Hill stated that he thinks the Business Intelligence application that is getting ready to be tried will also help analyze and use data to maximize efficiencies.

Chief Rinehimer commented that historically the County has done a good job at keeping up with technology.

Mr. Hill described how other departments in the County are also gaining new technologies.

3. Department of Environmental Quality/Hampton Roads Sanitation District

Mr. Hill introduced Mr. Doug Powell, General Manager of the James City Service Authority (JCSA), and Mr. Mike Vergakis, Chief Engineer – Water.

Mr. Powell introduced Mr. Scott Kudlas, Director of the Office of Water Supply, Department of Environmental Quality, and Mr. Ted Henifin, General Manager, Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD).

Mr. Kudlas addressed the Board with information on the health of the groundwater aquifer and the need for JCSA to find an alternative water source.

General discussion ensued regarding private wells, permitted and unpermitted withdrawals and coordinating information with the Health Department.

Mr. Henifin addressed the Board with an overview of the Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) and the work being done to meet long-term water demands.

General discussion ensued regarding the treatment process, project scope and public education.

At approximately 5:57 p.m., Mr. Onizuk put the Board in recess for a break.

At approximately 6:07 p.m., Ms. Larson reconvened the Board.

Mr. Onizuk was absent for the remainder of the meeting due to another engagement.

4. Dominion Energy

Mr. Hill introduced Mr. David Vanderbloemen, Director of Regional Operation Centers and Emergency Preparedness for Dominion Energy.

Mr. Vanderbloemen addressed the Board with an explanation of the power surge that occurred on September 20 in the Grove and Kingsmill areas and steps that are being taken to ensure this does not happen again.

Mr. McGlennon asked how many customers were impacted.

Mr. Vanderbloemen answered that there are 3,900 customers on the three circuits, but he did not know how many of them were impacted.

Mr. McGlennon asked if there has been any notification to the customers to check to see if they experienced any damage.

Mr. Vanderbloemen indicated that it would be obvious because if they have damage, they would have equipment failure. Additionally, Dominion Energy has issued press releases and done local news station interviews. He also described the claims process that customers will need to follow.

Mr. McGlennon asked for a report of the number of claims that have come up from this event.

Mr. Vanderbloemen replied that he could have the Claims Department forward him a report. The Board thanked Mr. Vanderbloemen for the update.

Mr. Hill summarized the work that is being done by staff to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan and thanked the Board for its support.

D. CLOSED SESSION

Absent: Onizuk

At approximately 6:28 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session.

At approximately 6:48 p.m., the Board re-entered Open Session.

1. Certification of Closed Session

A motion to Certify the Closed Session was made by John McGlennon and the motion result was Passed.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 1

Ayes: Hipple, Larson, McGlennon, Sadler

Absent: Onizuk

2. Consideration of a personnel matter, the appointment of individuals to the Regional Air Service Enhancement Committee (RAISE) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia

The Board generally agreed to continue discussion of this matter until the October 10, 2017, Regular Meeting.

3. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) of the Code of Virginia

E. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn until 5 p.m. on October 10, 2017 for the Regular Meeting

A motion to Adjourn was made by Michael Hipple and the motion result was Passed.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 1

Ayes: Hipple, Larson, McGlennon, Sadler

Absent: Onizuk



Bryan J. Hill, County Administrator