

Joint City-County Planning Task Force
Meeting Notes
October 10, 2013 – 3:00 pm – Busch Building 4th Floor Conference Room
Meeting #6

Task Force Members Present:

Greg Burris, Springfield City Manager
Collin Quigley, Springfield Asst. City Manager
Mary Mannix Decker, Springfield Finance Director
Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director
Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor
Jim Arnott, Greene County Sherriff
Paul Williams, Springfield Police Chief
Jerry Moyer, Greene County Court Administrator

Task Force Members Absent:

Fred Marty, Springfield Deputy City Manager
Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator

The meeting began at approximately 3:00 p.m. with a welcome from Greg Burris, City Manager noting that Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator would not be in attendance. Mr. Burris thanked Vanessa Brandon for her work preparing the minutes. Mr. Burris asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2013 meeting. Cindy Stein moved to approve the notes as presented. Jerry Moyer seconded the motion and the notes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Burris reminded the Task Force that at the last meeting, the issue of the amount of the subsidy for funding of the Health Department had been questioned. Based on that, the committee requested that Mary Mannix-Decker and Martha Mundt review the amount and report back to the Task Force. Ms. Mannix-Decker noted at this point the issue has not been resolved; however, she would provide an update of the progress that has been made. She noted that the original shortfall number of \$1.9 million, that she had previously presented, did not reflect any revenue against the actual cost. The second issue is a difference in the perception of how the services offered are looked at. This would consider the cost of support service to administer the program in contrast to just the actual cost of the particular program without management or overhead. Ms. Mannix-Decker stated she believes that the City and the County have reached an agreement on the difference between the two numbers; however, she does not feel that they have reached a method of calculating this with which both parties are comfortable. Martha Mundt, Greene County Budget Director, agreed with Ms. Mannix-Decker. She noted she also agrees that there must be further discussion of what this calculation should look like. Mr. Burris asked if this could possibly be resolved in the next 2 to 4 weeks. Ms. Mundt stated based on the amounts being considered, additional time will be needed.

Mr. Burris provided a brief history of the Safety and Justice Roundtable and their report. He noted that various offices had been asked to provide updates to this report and Tim Smith's office had received several responses. Mr. Burris noted that the document that was presented to the Task Force did not yet reflect these updates; however, Tim Smith's office would be working to update the original report. Mr. Burris asked Chief Williams to provide the update presented by the Police Department. Paul Williams, Chief of Police, provided the following updates:

Priority # 5: Enhanced data sharing and interagency communications

Chief Williams noted that training on the Niche system has been completed for both Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Republic Police Department. Republic is already operational and Greene County will be going live by the end of the month. Chief Williams noted this will allow all three agencies to share data and has provided considerable cost savings. Mr. Burris noted this was a very high priority to the members of the Safety and Justice Roundtable.

Chief Williams noted the Police and Fire Training Center opened in August 2012 and that the Department has seen a 100-percent increase in training hours. The SRPFTC has been utilized as a regional center and the amount of training has increased for all area agencies.

Priority # 6: Increasing staffing throughout the system

Chief Williams noted that for fiscal year 2014, all 331 sworn SPD positions are fully funded. There is an academy class of 20 that will begin in February to address positions that are vacant due to attrition. Chief Williams noted the attrition rate has decreased from 3.0/per month in 2012 to 1.5 /per month in 2013. Chief Williams noted there are still a number of vacant non-sworn positions, including 3.5 frozen, in the Police Department. Mr. Burris noted that there are approximately 70 vacant positions city wide. Chief Williams also noted they have also added five (5) sworn positions in 2012 due to a COPS grant.

Priority # 7: Expanding Facilities

Chief Williams again referenced the Police and Fire Training Center, noting it was completed and opened on time and under budget. This was in part due to adding onto an existing police/fire station to help with budget cost.

Successes outside of the top seven priorities: Community-Oriented Policing

Chief Williams said the existing Neighborhood Watch Program has been completely redesigned and a companion Business Watch Program has been created and has been successful. As noted above due to a federal grant, they have been able to add 5 sworn positions to the SPD focused on community engagement including an additional crime prevention officer, 2 police area representatives, a special events coordinator, and a volunteer coordinator. A volunteer in police service (VIPS) program was created—leading to over an average of 300 hours a month being donated to the SPD.

Unfunded Needs: Jail Overcrowding

Chief Williams noted this actually is under the Greene County Sheriff's bailiwick; however, he wanted to note one item under rising crimes. Chief Williams noted in the area of rising crimes against property, the City of Springfield only experienced a less than 1% increase based on the successful Lock It To Stop It campaign; however, our community also saw an increase in auto thefts and burglary, as well as a 22% increase in violent crime (robbery, rape, aggravated assault).

Mr. Burris thanked Chief Williams and asked David Hall, Fire Chief to provide a Fire Department update.

Chief Hall provided the following updates:

Priority # 6: Increasing staffing throughout the system

Chief Hall noted the Springfield Fire Department still has 2 frozen positions, but have been addressing this by utilizing the Missouri Works program.

Priority # 7: Expanding Facilities

Chief Hall noted the new Police and Fire training center has contributed to Springfield being the number one department utilizing training from the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute and Greene County having more participants in training than Kansas City or St. Louis.

Springfield Fire Department

Chief Hall noted that they were able to fill their 9 open positions and, due to a successful grant, were able to add 9 new positions which have been filled.

Mr. Burris thanked Chief Hall and asked J. R. Webb to provide an update on 911.

Mr. Webb provided the following updates:

Priority # 4: Combining emergency response agency facilities

Mr. Webb noted as of Monday, October 7, 2013, they have successfully combined the Greene County 911 offices and the Republic 911 center and are dispatching to all 23 area agencies. Mr. Webb noted that they are also providing training [to Southwest Missouri area dispatch agencies and cooperating with the Office of Emergency Management.

Priority # 5: Enhanced data sharing and interagency communications

Mr. Webb noted they are approximately 3 weeks from completion of the upgrade and expansion of the dispatch system, which will service all 23 area agencies and provide all agencies with uniform data. Mr. Burris asked how this affects the public. Mr. Webb noted that this will make

the officers much more efficient in responding to 911 calls because this system has a mapping component.

Priority # 6: Increasing staffing throughout the system

Mr. Webb noted that Republic provided 4 individuals that are now in place; however he clarified that these individuals were already funded through 911 and this will just allow them to be able to provide service for the entire County. Mr. Webb stated 911 still have 9 positions* that are frozen and that is one of their biggest concerns. Currently 911 is at the same staffing level that they were at in the mid 90's which is not consistent with the increase in call volume. Mr. Webb noted that currently approximately 75% of the calls for service are received from wireless devices. Additionally, Missouri is the only state in the nation that does not receive any funding from wireless devices. Mr. Webb noted that there are 16 counties in the state that do not have a 911 center.

Ms. Mannix Decker asked how their turnover rates currently were running. Mr. Webb said this has improved. Harold Bengsch, Greene County Commissioner noted that the Greene County Emergency Management/911 Training Center has also been highly successful.

Mr. Burris stated these items will be updated so a report can be presented to citizens. Chief Hall wanted to note that there are still some unresolved issues, such as replacement schedules for equipment. Mr. Burris agreed this is a huge issue that will have to be addressed both for the City and the County.

Mr. Burris noted he is still working on the action items for public safety centers based on 3 scenarios showing various funding options. Mr. Burris will be sending these items out as a starting point for the groups' consideration.

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

*CLERKS NOTE: upon review of the minutes clarification was made relating to the number of vacant positions. That clarification is listed below; however was not presented at the meeting.

Currently, the Springfield-Greene County 911 has 12 frozen FTE positions (11 telecommunicator positions and one manager position). The 911 Advisory Board approved to fund one of the telecommunicator positions in 2014. In addition, the merger with the City of Republic in October, 2013 provided an additional nine approved FTE positions to the Springfield-Greene County department with only four being filled at this time.