

Lancaster County Council Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

**County Council Conference Room
Council Administration Building
100 N. Main Street
Lancaster, SC 29720**

1. **Call to Order – Committee Chair Steve Harper** 8:00 a.m.
2. **Approval of the agenda** *[deletions and additions of non-substantive matters]*
3. **Minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting**
4. **Citizens Comments**
5. **Discussion / Action Items**
 - a. Public Safety Director position update – Steve Willis
6. **Executive Session**
 - a. Public Safety Communications – Radios SC Code § 30-4-70(a)(3)
 - b. Judicial Security matter – SC Code § 30-4-70(a)(3)
7. **Adjournment**

Anyone requiring special services to attend this meeting should contact 285-1565 at least 24 hours in advance of this meeting.

Lancaster County Council Public Safety Committee agendas are posted at the Lancaster County Administration Building and are available on the Website: www.mylancaster.org



Members of Lancaster County Council
Public Safety Committee

Steve Harper District 5, Chairman
Bob Bundy, District 3
Larry McCullough, District 1

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Minutes of the Lancaster County Council Public Safety Committee Meeting

101 N. Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Council Members present were Steve Harper, Larry McCullough and Bob Bundy. Also present was Debbie Hardin, John Weaver, various Department Heads and spectators. A quorum of the Lancaster County Public Safety Committee was present for the meeting.

The following press was notified of the meeting by e-mail or by fax in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: Lancaster News, Kershaw News Era, The Rock Hill Herald, Fort Mill Times, Cable News 2, Channel 9 and the local Government Channel. The agenda was also posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building the required length of time and on the county website.

Approval of the agenda

Bob Bundy moved to approve the agenda as written. Passed 3-0.

Minutes of the August 11, 2015 meeting

Bob Bundy moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2015 meeting. Passed 3-0.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizen's comments.

Discussion / Action Items

Riverside Fire Department Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Darren Player discussed that Riverside Fire Department received an award for their Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) application. The Fire Commission voted favorably to forward this request to the Public Safety Committee. This is a \$42,721 grant, with a 5% match by the county in the amount of \$2,219 and the Federal share of \$42,592. The equipment to be purchased includes: 1 dual head mobile 800 MHz radio; 3 single head mobile 800 MHz radios; 10 portable 800 MHz radios along with one year subscription costs for the radios to be allowed access to the

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Palmetto 800 radio system at a rate of \$19/month per radio unit.

Larry McCullough moved to forward this item favorably to full Council. Passed 3-0.

Update on radio system

Chris Nunnery, Public Safety Communications Director, updated Council on the new radio system. He noted that he had met with Motorola this week and it was not very fruitful. York County has expressed interest in collaborating with the County as well as Charlotte. There are numerous options for Council to consider, all with differing cost. Mr. Nunnery requested at the next Public Safety meeting, an executive session item be placed on the agenda to discuss the details of contractual and safety matters.

Plans for expansion at Rich Hill Fire Department

At the last Public Safety Committee Meeting, Council requested information regarding the expansion of the Rich Hill Fire Department. Chief Sims had the cost estimates updated, with the total cost of the expansion at \$270,911. Fire Commission proposes to sell used fire apparatus to go towards this project. The plan is to sell fire apparatus in conjunction with the purchase of newer apparatus when the bond proceeds are approved. In lieu of Rich Hill obtaining new fire apparatus, they will receive the funds from the sale for the expansion.

Larry McCullough moved to recommend this item to full Council. He further requested that this item be brought to Council simultaneously with the apparatus bond purchase so that Council can hear the entire proposal. Passed 3-0.

Update on Public Safety Director Position

Steve Willis was unable to attend this meeting. This item will be on the next meeting agenda.

Update from Fire Fee Board subcommittee

Councilman McCullough informed the committee that this subcommittee has not met. There have been several members on vacation. He also expects it to be only one meeting and will report to this committee in November.

Sale of older EMS units to purchase a new unit

Clay Catoe, EMS Director, proposed the sale of older high maintenance EMS units and allocating those funds for a new unit. He is seeking authorization to sell those units during this budget year to put toward the purchase of the new unit in the next budget year. Mr. Catoe

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requested the inclusion of this item on the Administration Committee agenda for their recommendation to Council.

MOTION was made by Larry McCullough to move this item to the Administration Committee. Passed 3-0.

Update regarding forensic lab

Sheriff Faile updated the Committee on the forensic lab. He reported that there is a big push to make all forensic labs accredited. Changes in legislation could require all drug labs to have accreditation according to the standards set by the Forensic Science Board and the Office of Forensic Science. All personnel who perform forensic work would become certified in their fields by meeting basic requirements.

The Sheriff wanted to point out funding items of concern to address in the next few years concerning the future drug lab and allow sufficient time to determine funding availability:

- Maintenance fees that will be required to maintain the equipment and instruments.
- The cost of the accreditation of the lab (to include upfront cost and the cost to continue to remain accredited).
- The cost for personnel to become certified. The estimated total cost for salaries, annual accreditation and the maintenance fees is approximately \$150,000.

The Sheriff was further concerned about having enough workload to warrant an additional chemist. At this time, we have work for one chemist, but not two.

Council requested that the Sheriff look into the extent of the peer review and ask around other counties regarding sharing the chemist.

Adjournment

Larry McCullough moved to adjourn. Passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by the Public Safety Committee

Debbie C. Hardin
Clerk to Council

Steve Harper, Chairman