

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting on July 27, 2016

Members attending: Debby Brehm, Jon Camp, Tom Casady, Tyler Mainquist, Tracy Sanford, Deb Schorr, Doug Emery

Members absent: Rick Carter, Mike Rogers, Dick Cambell, Liz Standish, John Miles

Others present: Ray Ryan, Pat Borer, Mike Despain, City of Lincoln; Nancy Hicks, Lincoln Journal Star

The meeting convened at 5:07 PM. Chairperson Debby Brehm announced that Cathy Beecham has moved from Lincoln, necessitating a new co-chair for the committee. Tyler Mainquist was nominated by Jon Camp, seconded by Doug Emery and elected as co-chair on a unanimous vote of those in attendance.

Debby Brehm introduced Micheal Despain, Lincoln's new Fire Chief, who provided information about his background in the fire service.

Ray Ryan provided information on the status of the radio system. The City continues to work with Motorola on the final design review, and there have been no big surprises. Tom Casady said that work will begin soon in the 911 Center to prepare for the installation of equipment associated with the new radio system. Tyler Mainquist and Jon Camp asked questions about the civil construction and tower sites. Ray indicated that a new shelter that had been anticipated at the Military Road tower will not be needed, because the Motorola equipment is considerably more compact than the equipment it is replacing. This will preserve about \$100,000 that had been anticipated for that shelter.

Slightly over \$100,000 has been dedicated to provide fiber optic connection to one of the tower sites, but this is part of the money the City had budgeted for civil construction at the radio sites and 911 Center, so it was not unexpected. Engineering studies of the towers are still underway, but no major unanticipated problems have surfaced to date.

Tom Casady said the City has agreed with the Statewide Radio System (SRS) in principal to proceed with a shared core, owned and maintained by the State, and to provide the SRS with access to Lincoln's 800 Mhz radio infrastructure for operations in the Lincoln vicinity. The City and SRS representatives produced a draft interlocal agreement that is not yet signed, but is presently under final review. The draft agreement has been reviewed by the City Law Department, and delivered to the Nebraska Chief Information Officer for the State's legal review. The agreement is to simply trade these services, with no payment by either party to the other. Joining the SRS will save the City over \$500,000 in initial system costs, and will reduce future costs associated with the core, had the City owned its own.

Assistant Fire Chief Pat Borer briefed the committee on the status of the fire station projects. Chief Borer said that the City is still in the process of looking for land within ½ mile of the four optimal

locations identified in the fire station optimization study. Nothing is under contract, but talks are continuing with a land owner in the 19th and Superior St. area, and Pat said he expects an agreement may be reached on that land soon.

The City has also identified parcels near the 84th & Holdrege and 70th & Pine Lake Road locations, and continues to explore options in those areas. There are also two parcels that are being evaluated at 84th and Pioneers. Pat said that the City's agent, Clint Thomas with the Urban Development Department, is handling the negotiations.

Tom Casady said that land in three of these areas is somewhat scarce, as continued development has narrowed the number of undeveloped parcels. Pat said that it appears likely that the City will need to buy commercially-zoned land in some of the locations, which is about twice as expensive as land zoned for residential use. Jon Camp asked how this increased expense will impact the overall cost of the public safety projects. Tom Casady said it is still his hope and expectation that all these projects can be completed under the projected cost, allowing the sales tax to be ended a couple months early.

Tyler Mainquist asked if growth in these areas had changed the optimal locations previously identified. Tom Casady responded that the growth, though significant, has been precisely where it was expected based on the Comprehensive Plan which was used in projecting the optimal station locations, so it has not changed things.

Discussion took place about Fire Station 11 in the airpark. Pat Borer described the station 11 project, which is not funded by the sales tax, and is separate from the four stations funded by the sales tax. Doug Emery and Debby Brehm noted that the Station 11 project predates the sales tax-funded projects. Tom said that the new Station 11 in Lincoln's AirPark neighborhood was necessitated by a decision of the Airport Authority to repurpose the space LF&R currently occupies in one of their buildings on the airport grounds. The City was notified several years ago by the Airport Authority of this, and has been planning for the replacement of that space with a new facility.

Davis Design won the contract for architectural services, and is collaborating with Stewart Cooper Newell, a firm that specializes in public safety building design. Tom Casady and Pat Borer described some of the process the City has been engaged in with the architects to establish a template for Station 11. Tom and Pat said this work can serve as a template for 3 of the 4 stations funded by the sales tax, as the design is relatively easy to expand to these larger stations, and the City will own the plans. This should reduce architectural costs when the four new stations funded by sales tax are designed. Tom asked the committee if, in light of this, it would be agreeable to use sales tax proceeds to pay about 3/4ths of the architectural fees for the Station 11 project—aside from those that are site specific to Station 11. After discussion, Tyler Mainquist moved to allow this use, up to a maximum of \$180,000 and Tracy Sanford seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of those in attendance.

The committee discussed future meetings. No date was set, but a meeting in the late fall would be probable. Tom said that he would keep members advised via email of any major new developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM