

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, January 14, 2012 8:00 AM – 8:40 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Adam Hertz, Cynthia Wolken, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Caitlin Cople, Dick Haines, Ed Childers

Members Not Present: Alex Taft

Other Present: Jason Diehl, Jeff Brandt, Cheryl Schatz, Chris Loundsbury

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from [January 4, 2012](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Jason Diehl)

Jason Diehl provided an overview of retirements, turnover, and promotions. He discussed vacancy savings. Jason acknowledged Cheryl Schatz. He discussed the implementation of new breathing apparatus. He provided a status on a grant application to help fund a replacement ladder truck. He discussed the department's training and certification programs. He discussed the implementation of new defibrillators. He described Fire Marshall activities, including liquor license inspections, and assisting citizens to create defensible space to protect their homes from wildfire. Jason described the implementation of pyrotechnic permits. He discussed hydrant inspection and code enforcement. He provided an overview of the construction of a new type 3 engine. He discussed budgeting for maintenance issues. He acknowledged the volunteer efforts of his father-in-law.

Dave Strohmaier asked for more information regarding Federal grants.

Jason Diehl responded that the Assistance to Firefighter grant is administered by FEMA, and is used for equipment and training. He stated that SCBA equipment was purchased using that grant. He described the SAFER grant and the utilization of monies acquired. He discussed the increasing competition for dwindling grant monies nationwide.

Bob Jaffe asked if an incident response report could be provided.

Jason Diehl replied that the statistics were still being compiled for 2011, and that they will be available for the Council when completed.

Cynthia Wolken asked if the 'no name street issue' at Fort Missoula had been resolved.

Jason Diehl described the process of working with representatives from Fort Missoula. He indicated that the issued should be resolved by the spring of 2013.

Jon Wilkins asked if the Missoula Fire Department had responded to the recent bus crash East of Missoula.

Jason Diehl responded that the MFD was not requested. Units were sent, but they were then cancelled.

Dave Strohmaier inquired about the liquor license inspections.

Jason Diehl described the inspections.

Ed Childers asked if there is a charge for the liquor license inspections.

Jason Diehl replied that there is not.

Dave Strohmaier asked about the status of the urban interface mapping around Missoula.

Jason Diehl responded that he is unaware of any recent progress on the mapping. He stated that he could investigate further.

Bob Jaffe asked if the Chief could provide a general overview of Fire Department trends for 2011.

Jason Diehl provided some information, and he noted a significant increase in clothes dryer fires.

Jeff Brandt discussed reviewing the master fire plan based on shifts in call volume.

Bob Jaffe asked about call volumes at station five.

Jason Diehl responded that call volumes at station five have been low. He estimated that they have responded to less than 400 calls for 2011. He feels that new development will result in an increase of volume. Jason stated that response times in that part of town have improved considerably since opening the new station.

Jon Wilkins asked if calls for medical assistance have increased for the downtown area.

Jason Diehl responded that he would need to review the statistics, but that downtown medical assistance calls increase on the weekends.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
3. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
4. Consider Discuss revisiting cell phone restrictions. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/17/11)
5. Discuss air quality issues related to railroad operations in and through Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.