

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Adam Hertz, Jon Wilkins, Caitlin Copple, Dick Haines

Members Not Present: Bob Jaffe, Cynthia Wolken

Other Present: Chris Odlin, Chris Lounsbury

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes from January 25, 2012 and February 8, 2012. Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Missoula Business Improvement District (BID) to co-fund the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) position. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mark Muir) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

MOTION: The committee recommends the city council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Missoula Business Improvement District (BID) to co-fund the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) position.

Chris Odlin discussed the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) position.

Dave Strohmaier moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Missoula Business Improvement District (BID) to co-fund the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) position.

Jon Wilkins stated that he can see the improvement to downtown since this program has been in place.

Motion approved unanimously.

2. Update discussion with the 911 Dispatch. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jon Wilkins) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

Chris Lounsbury provided some background on the formation of the 911 center. Chris presented [slides](#) and provided a [handout](#) during the discussion. Chris stated that there are six functional dispatcher positions, four of which are filled 24 hours a day. He described the resources managed by the center. He described the physical layout of the 911 center. He discussed the dispatcher training program. He stated that dispatchers receive five weeks of training with an additional twelve weeks of on the job training. Dispatchers receive 1 week of training at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA).

Dave Strohmaier asked about the dedicated Law Enforcement dispatcher position.

Chris Lounsbury described the call taking process, and the role of the Law Enforcement dispatcher. Dispatchers receive EMS training so that they can provide instructions to 911 callers. Chris stated that the center receives 200 emergency 911 calls per day. About 250 administrative calls per day are also handled. Administrative calls include officer requests. An average day sees 72 traffic calls, 24 medical calls, and 10 City fire calls. He discussed the decline of landlines. More than 50% of the calls received by the 911 center are cell phones that only provide number and carrier info. The approximate latitude and longitude for cell phone calls is received by the center. Chris discussed the process involved when a call is received by the 911 center. He discussed the goals and public service of the operations.

Chris discussed personnel transitions and changes in the department. Chris reviewed the Smart 911 service that is being implemented. It allows citizens to go to a website and create safety profile by registering their phone and home address. The system is scheduled for rollout on Tuesday, February 21. Chris stated that the RFP process for a radio system upgrade has been completed. The Department of Homeland Security provided funding for the radio system upgrade project. Chris discussed remodeling the 911 center to accommodate 8-10 positions to address the 3-5% annual increase in calls.

Dave Strohmaier asked about the Animal Control issue. He expressed concern regarding how animal calls are handled.

Chris Lounsbury described the process of handling animal calls.

Dave Strohmaier asked if 911 will not contact Animal Control.

Chris Lounsbury clarified. Citizens are encouraged to contact Animal Control when appropriate.

Jon Wilkins asked about reverse 911 system

Chris Lounsbury discussed outbound notification. He stated that cell phone users need to register on the website. A pre-recorded message is sent to subscribers notifying them of a relevant incident.

Caitlin Cople asked if the public will be notified of the reverse 911 program

Chris Lounsbury responded that information will be available on the County's social media accounts. Other outreach will also be implemented.

Jon Wilkins asked how funding for 911 Dispatch is split between the City and the County.

Chris Lounsbury responded that all County residents pay for the center's operations via property taxes. There is also a Federal telephone fee of one dollar charged on monthly telephone bills that is allocated for 911 center operations.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Jason Diehl)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
5. Consider Discuss revisiting cell phone restrictions. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/17/11)
6. Discuss air quality issues related to railroad operations in and through Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)
7. Authorize Discussion with Crime Victim Advocate Office. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jon Wilkins) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 A.M. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.