

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, March 2, 2011 9:15 AM – 10:00 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Cynthia Wolken, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Renee Mitchell, Lyn Hellegaard, Ed Childers.

Members Not Present: Dick Haines

Others Present: Mike Painter, Jason Diehl, Jeff Logan, Cheryl Schatz

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve Minutes from [February 9, 2011](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mike Painter)

Mike Painter stated that he is working on a calendar year 2010 annual report for the Fire Department. He welcomed input from the committee for information that they may want to see in the report. Mike introduced the new Fire Marshall Gordon Hughes and Fire Inspector Kory Garman.

Jason Diehl provided updates on Fire Department grants. He discussed a \$6,000 prevention and safety grant for new digital cameras that is still in the works. He discussed grant applications submitted for a \$900,000 ladder truck replacement. Jason discussed revising the addressing system at Fort Missoula ([memo](#)) because of response issues for Fire and Law Enforcement.

Dave Strohmaier asked who is responsible for renaming and renumbering streets.

Jason Diehl replied that he is working with Dr. Brown at the Fort in order to compile a list of historically significant street names that may potentially be used.

Ed Childers asked if the Post Office is having problems locating addresses

Jason Diehl replied that Postal workers are more familiar with the territory. Members of the general public who contact emergency services may not be able to identify a specific location due to the lack of numbering consistency and signage.

Ed Childers asked if the Police Department is having similar problems locating addresses.

Jason Diehl replied that he is working with the Police Department on this issue.

Mike Painter described Jason's involvement in the hiring and promotion processes. He described Jason's involvement in updating maps and water supplies.

Bob Jaffe asked if there are any discussions regarding budget cuts or cuts to grants. He also inquired about street widths for new subdivisions. He asked if smaller equipment could be used.

Jason Diehl responded that grants fluctuate, and there is a concern that less money will be available due to cuts.

Mike Painter described the benefits of the SAFER grant.

Jason Diehl discussed street widths. He described issues with parking and snow berms. He compared existing street widths with recommended street widths. He described the pitfalls of using enforcement plans instead of managing the physical environment.

Bob Jaffe asked if the Fire Department had any response issues due to parked cars.

Jason Diehl responded that they have had some issues with delayed response times.

Bob Jaffe asked if bike lanes affected response time.

Jason Diehl replied that bike lanes are not a problem, and do in fact provide a buffer between responding emergency equipment and parked vehicles.

Dave Strohmaier asked about fire apparatus size.

Jason Diehl responded that there is smaller equipment available, but it does not suit the needs of the City.

Jon Wilkins noted that the Fire Department typically does not comment on subdivision applications. He stated that he would like to see more comments.

Jason Diehl responded that the Fire Department does not comment as long as the subdivision meets the minimum regulations.

Jon Wilkins would like to see Fire Department comments on subdivision applications.

Mike Painter described a checklist that the Fire Marshall uses when reviewing subdivisions. He offered to provide that checklist with subdivision applications.

Jon Wilkins feels that would be appropriate.

Jeff Logan discussed fire apparatus. He described some of the features on the apparatus that enhance the ability of the Fire Department to accomplish their mission. He discussed reserve equipment. He discussed upgrading the department wildland apparatus and its application in the urban interface

Bob Jaffe asked about the use of 'white noise' siren sounds on apparatus.

Jeff Logan replied that he is not very familiar with 'white noise' technology. He described the use of sirens and the driver training.

Mike Painter mentioned the Firefighter tribute in Rose Memorial Park. He described some of Jeff Logan's duties.

Jon Wilkins asked if the Fire Department keeps records pertaining to responses involving the transient population.

Mike Painter replied that they currently do not break that out, but they are in the process of developing tools to track that data.

Jon Wilkins would like to see that data tracked.

Mike Painter discussed the costs and use of resources involved on those types of calls.

Renee Mitchell asked about the naming and numbering of streets in Fort Missoula.

Jason Diehl replied that a big part of the problem at Fort Missoula is the lack of signage and the inconsistent numbering system.

Renee Mitchell asked if the rural fire district also responds to Fort Missoula.

Jason Diehl responded that they have an automatic aid agreement with the rural fire district.

Pam Walzer asked about data collection regarding fire responses. She asked about statistics regarding worker's compensation claims for the department, and common injuries.

Mike Painter described a wellness/fitness initiative grant that the Fire Department received to address such issues.

Jason Diehl described Missoula's program that involves a comprehensive physical, blood screening program, fitness for respirator use, and the need to meet national standards. He described the in-house fitness trainers and programs. He mentioned back injuries being a fairly common injury

Mike Painter discussed the issue of safety and targeting lifting and slip and fall issues.

Pam Walzer asked if the Fire Department can compare injury rates with other agencies around the country.

Mike Painter replied that he will gather that data.

Jon Wilkins asked about the garage apartments that have their own addresses.

Mike Painter discussed his collaboration with the engineering department.

Bob Jaffe would like to see more response statistics for the Fire Department.

Jason Diehl discussed the issue and some of the difficulties in obtaining certain information.

Bob Jaffe asked about the compensation package for firefighters in relationship to the upcoming budget.

Mike Painter indicated that the information is available in the Fire contract. He described the Fire Department's data gathering. He recognized Cheryl Shatz's contributions to the department.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

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. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Chapter 6.09 entitled "Missoula Cat Ordinance" section 6.09.010 through 6.09.090 to amend definitions, to limit the number of cats over the age of four months that a person, family, or household can harbor, keep, or maintain to five and to enact other general amendments. [\(PS&H\)](#) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
4. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 6 entitled "Animals" generally amending Chapter 6.04 entitled "Animals Running at Large" and Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops," increasing the fee when an animal is impounded and establishing a fee for a boarding kennel license. [\(PS&H\)](#) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
5. Consider an [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 9 entitled —Public Peace, Morals and Welfare by creating Chapter 58 entitled —Social Host and Rental Space Gatherings involving consumption of Alcohol by Minorsll and enacting Sections 9.58.010 through 9.58.030. [\(memo\)](#) — Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 12/06/10)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.