

**POLICE SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday June 7, 2006**

4:30pm – 6:00pm

110 North Fourth Avenue

**Members Present:**

Paul Buntin	Chief of Police, Saline
Jeff Irwin	County Commissioner
Pat Kelly	Dexter Township
William McFarlane	Superior Township
Herb Mahony, Designee	County Under Sheriff
Michael Moran	Ann Arbor Township
Mark Ouimet	County Commissioner
Wes Prater	County Commissioner, Chair of Board
Steve Solowczuk	County Commissioner
Brenda Stumbo	Ypsilanti Township
Patricia Vaillencourt	Village of Manchester

**Members Absent:** Ruth Ann Jamnick, Daniel Minzey, Kenneth Unterbrink

**Staff Present:** Mary O’Hare (Facilitator), Robert Guenzel, Curt Hedger, Tony VanDerworp, Kerry Sheldon, Linda Wicks (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Rolland Sizemore, County Commissioner

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator O’Hare, 4:35pm, at the Washtenaw County Annex Building, 110 N. Fourth Ave, first floor large conference room.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Solowczuk moved for approval of the May 17, 2006, Police Services Steering Committee meeting minutes; Buntin seconded; all in favor, with one abstaining (Vaillencourt).

O’Hare requested that *PSSC* members review and confirm data on the updated membership listing; reminding members that they may be eligible for meeting mileage and/or a Per Diem. Members electing mileage and/or Per Diem should indicate the required information on this form.

O’Hare distributed a revised copy of the 2006 *PSSC* meeting schedule; as approved at the May 17, 2006, *PSSC* meeting. This schedule has been posted per Open Meeting regulations.

**3. Citizen Participation**

None.

**4. Committee Member Check-In**

O’Hare indicated that this new agenda item will be included on each month’s agenda, offering an opportunity for committee members to provide updates on what is occurring in their municipality and to “catch-up” on what is occurring elsewhere.

- McFarlane indicated that Superior Township has formed a Blue Ribbon Committee to look into law enforcement, with its initial meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, facilitated by Mary O'Hare. McFarlane thanked O'Hare for providing this facilitation, as this committee explored different options available, noting that the meeting was very successful in achieving its target goals. O'Hare noted that the process used assisted in providing a balanced picture, benefiting from forcing exploration of both positive and negative issues. McFarlane noted that the Sheriff department is represented through Mahony's presence on this committee; and that the committee will be looking to resolve operational issues.
- Moran indicated that Ann Arbor Township has placed a 3.98 mil proposal on the August 8<sup>th</sup> ballot as a Public Safety millage combined (½ police and ½ fire). He noted that if this proposal does not pass they will be placed as two separate ballots on the November ballot.

*PSSC* members noted ballots for August for Police/Fire services, discussing the benefits and disadvantages of combining vs. splitting these millage proposals.

### Police Services Regional Contract Discussion

Vaillencourt indicated that the Southwest Washtenaw Council of Government has unanimously agreed to reinstate regional police services discussions by the CEOs of Townships/Villages.

*PSSC* members discussed the possibility of exploring a regional authority for Police Services contracting; with the benefits of having the unions and potential providers present at the planning stressed. Also noted were the benefits of researching other counties that are already contracting regionally to see what best practices and issues there may be. East Coast Counties such as Baltimore County, St. Charles County and most Virginia Counties were noted as currently contracting regionally. O'Hare suggested value in having an expert report to the *PSSC* on the regional police contracting in these currently implementing counties; what really has worked, why it has worked and how demographics meet the current situation here.

Mahony indicated that the Sheriff's office would be intrigued with the exploration of signing with a regional authority, rather than individual units of government; noting that looking at the issue of Public Safety as a region may have a lot of merit. He noted that contracting regionally as one newly formed unit is much easier than combining separately contracted governmental unit services – that one agreement for the whole region is much easier to manage and provide service for, regardless of whom the service provider is.

Kelly inquired if the County would be willing to renegotiate if the three municipalities in her area were wanting to investigate a regional agreement; with Guenzel indicating not for price/payment but yes for other issues and terms.

- Stumbo shared information regarding the recent tragedy involving a police officer and citizen's death in Ypsilanti Township; noting the funeral is scheduled for Friday. She indicated that there is some civil unrest in the West Willow neighborhood where the incident occurred. Mahony indicated that State Police are currently investigating the incident; and that there will also be an internal investigation. He noted that emergency operations were implemented in response to the incident.
- Guenzel indicated that the CJCC met on May 19, 2006, for a planning retreat, spending the majority of the meeting working on the issue of jail overcrowding. He indicated that he felt it was a successful meeting, raising a lot of good questions; noting that it will be crucial in terms of how these questions are followed up. Guenzel indicated that the Sheriff and Administration are making a joint

recommendation to the BOC tonight to eliminate all future boarding out of inmates. The impact of this recommendation will be to put the pressure on the system to solve the problem – boarding out was simply a safety valve. He noted that those currently boarded (44) out will remain so until they are scheduled to be released, but that there will be no more contracts for boarding out of inmates. Guenzel indicated that the BOC recommendation includes a review in three months.

- Moran noted that, as a new CJCC member, he was troubled to learn that of the c400 inmates boarded out, 200+ were pre-trial status; indicating that this indicates real problems with the system. He shared his cautious hope that this act of eliminating boarding out may put pressure on the system to right some of these difficulties. *PSSC* members noted that Judge Brown and Judge Simpson are members of the CJCC, which is currently exploring this overcrowding issue. It was noted that there are 15 legislative options that can be explored alternate to boarding out, of which Washtenaw County is already doing many; and that it may make sense to seek funding for additional options such as GPS/Tethering.

Guenzel gave an update regarding the Police Services contracts with local jurisdictions, noting that the offer to the three Townships not signing contracts was deferred to tonight’s BOC meeting. He indicated that it is anticipated that the BOC will take up the resolution tonight, with date change modifications reflecting this delay. These three townships must respond by August 18, 2006.

Guenzel shared the three options for BOC consideration regarding the three Townships not signing contracts:

- 1) Offer these townships the same four-year pact signed by the other 10 jurisdictions, with an immediate start date
- 2) Offer a month-to-month agreement based on a \$77/hour rate
- 3) If no resolution is reached by a determined date, authorize constitutionally minimal services

## **5. Review Committee Draft Charter**

O’Hare requested that *PSSC* members review the draft charter distributed. *PSSC* members requested the following changes/updates:

### 1.3 Background

Change local “township” wording to local “**jurisdiction**”

### 1.4 Purpose

Change “townships” to “**jurisdictions**”

### 2.1 Membership

Change “Supervisors from Local Units of Government....” to read “Chief elected officials of local jurisdictions or their appointed designee....”

Indicate membership not to exceed 13

### 2.2 Term of Member

Align the membership terms with the BOC term; expiring December 2006 and then appointed for two years along with new BOC (appointment on even years)

Nominations for membership appointment representing local jurisdictions should be obtained from the County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association (MTA). It was noted that the MTA does not include villages; with discussion about appropriate recommendation processes for these jurisdictions.

### 3.1 Meeting Date/Time/Location

The wording referencing the Open Meetings Act may remain; with *PSSC* meetings complying with Open Meetings Act policies. *PSSC* members stressed, however, that although membership is appointed by the BOC, the committee is advisory in nature and does not impact final policy.

### 3.4 Voting

*PSSC* members agreed that a designee may be appointed to attend if the member is unable. This designee, as appointed in document, may vote in the member's place at the meeting. Voting by proxy will not be permitted; as pertinent discussion information may not be available to this proxy voting member. Each jurisdiction will get only one vote.

*PSSC* members stressed that this is an advisory vote, NOT a policy vote, indicating that this should be implicit in the purpose of the committee. *PSSC* members suggested that the *PSSC* charge and purpose should be combined; reflecting the advisory nature of this committee.

### 3.5 Officers

*PSSC* members discussed the option of electing officers; determining not to have officers and to continue the use of a facilitator (Mary O'Hare).

O'Hare indicated she would send a revised copy of the *PSSC* Team Charter out to members prior to the July 5 meeting, with adoption scheduled for the July meeting.

## **6. 2006 Meeting Topics**

O'Hare noted that the December meeting is currently scheduled for the date of the BOC Holiday celebration. *PSSC* members will need to either reschedule this session or cancel; to be determined by the time of the November *PSSC* meeting.

### **Tentative PSSC Meeting Topics**

**July 5** -- Engagement around County Space Planning

Short presentation followed by questions to provoke dialogue and input (include on July agenda a brief discussion to shape the issues for subsequent regional police services conversation with expert - deployment and cost issues to be included)

**August 2** -- Police Services Staffing Analysis (Mahony to provide information)

Provide info to *PSSC* members in July; review in August

**September 6 / October 4 / November 1** -- Include regional police services conversation, bringing in an outside expert/resource

*PSSC* members stressed the need for further discussions relating to the Union contracts and negotiations; requesting that:

- 1) Union leadership be invited to attend *PSSC* meetings (non-member participation)
- 2) A working group subcommittee from the *PSSC* be formed to meet with Mahony and Diane Heidt (Labor Relations Manager) in a more structured setting to discuss issues; maintaining confidentiality.

*PSSC* members Kelly, Moran, McFarlane and Vaillencourt volunteered to serve on this subcommittee working with Mahony and Heidt.

**7. Other**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Facilitator O'Hare at 6:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

4:30pm – 6:00pm

110 N. Fourth Avenue, Large Conference Room

Approved by Committee: 5 July 2006