

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
SPECIAL LAW BOARD/BUDGET MEETING
City Commission Meeting Room
1101 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS
April 12, 2012 5:30 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present: Karen McCulloh Richard Jankovich (left at 6:11 p.m.)
Barry Wilkerson Loren Pepperd
Dave Lewis John Matta
Wynn Butler

Absent:

Staff Present: Director Schoen Assistant Director Doehling
Captain Nelson Captain Hooper
Captain Hegarty Captain Moldrup
Captain Fink

I. Establish Quorum: By Chairman McCulloh at 5:31 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Director Schoen

III. General Agenda:

A. Public Comment: RCPD Police Officer Brian Johnson addressed the Board regarding the proposed 2013 RCPD Budget, specifically with respect to the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and merit increases as they relate to employee recruitment and retention. Johnson explained that officers are present whenever a negative life event occurs and generally they have experience in dealing with it. Police officers are multiple things to multiple people; they are counselors, social workers, babysitters, and bouncers at the bar to name a few. Officers routinely deal with domestic violence, fights, and neglected/endangered children, all of which take a toll on the officer over the years.

Johnson expressed the need to attract and retain quality police officers. A good salary attracts good candidates and draws in previously certified police officers. Aside from cost savings connected to training, there are many other benefits to hiring experienced or certified police officers. There is a higher turnover rate for rookie officers than those who have experience in the field simply due to the fact that the career is rarely what one expects it to be. Like that of a household budget, in the end you find a way to pay for the things you need. That is no different when looking at paying a salary to keep experienced police officers in the community.

McCulloh thanked Johnson for his comments. McCulloh turned to the Board and requested agenda item B., Executive Session be taken up following the 2013 budget development discussion. The Board agreed to the change.

B. 2013 Budget Development: At the March 26, 2012 Law Board Meeting there was a general consensus among the Board to extend discussions pertaining to the 2013 RCPD budget, which resulted in the scheduling of the April 12, 2012 Special Law Board Meeting. There was also a desire among the Board to obtain more information concerning anticipated assessed valuation increases for 2013 so that they could each return to their respective organizations and come to a consensus on the direction they would like to take with the RCPD budget.

Matta and Butler expressed their desire to maintain a flat mil levy for 2013. In order to accomplish this goal, RCPD Administration would need to reduce the proposed budget by approximately 0.9%.

McCulloh expressed her concern with the proposed decrease as it would require a reduction in force.

Matta said that he is confident that the Director could return with a budget option that the Board could live with.

McCulloh said she would not be comfortable with a budget that would call for a reduction in force.

Wilkerson commented that it is the responsibility of the Law Board to serve the community, not just the city or county. One of the responsibilities of the Board is public safety. Wilkerson agreed with the comment made by Officer Johnson that the work does take a toll on police officers. The cost to train officers can be measured, and it is expensive. What cannot be measured is the loss of experience. There is a significant difference between an officer with 10 or more years of experience versus an officer fresh out of the academy. Last year alone there were 5 homicides in the county. In his opinion, the Board cannot be irresponsible by providing the Director with a budget that will reduce current force and the quality of force in the long term.

Wilkerson made a motion to approve RCPD budget draft 2B for publication. McCulloh seconded the motion.

Matta said although he appreciates the comments being made, it is easy to say public safety and that government has to spend whatever it takes to accomplish it. As members of the Law Board they have to make hard choices. Matta said that he has heard the argument about training throughout his career. He has seen the calculations on the cost to train new employees, but it is rare to find a manager who would be willing to pay higher wages and cut training out of their budget to offset it. If there are high costs associated with training new officers, the argument can be made that there is money to be saved with retention.

Pepperd stated that he was ready to support draft 2C which includes the addition of 2 police officers, 1 non-sworn Public Information Officer, 1 non-sworn Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Lab Technician and a 1.5% COLA for all employees, resulting in a 3.406% increase from the approved 2012 RCPD budget.

Wilkerson made a friendly amendment to approve RCPD budget draft 2C for publication.

Pepperd called the question on budget draft 2C. Chairman McCulloh asked that a roll call vote be taken. The results are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Wilkerson | Yes | Butler | Yes |
| Lewis | Yes | Matta | Yes |
| Pepperd | Yes | Jankovich | Yes |
| McCulloh | Yes | | |

The motion passed 7-0 in support of the call.

A roll call vote was taken to approve RCPD budget option 2C for publication. The results are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Wilkerson | Yes | Butler | No |
| Lewis | Yes | Matta | No |
| Pepperd | Yes | Jankovich | Yes |
| McCulloh | Yes | | |

The motion passed 5-2.

C. Executive Session: At 6:10 p.m. Lewis moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing attorney client privilege and non-elected personnel matters not to exceed 30 minutes. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

At 6:40 p.m. Wilkerson moved to return from executive session. Matta seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Lewis moved to return to executive session for the same purpose mentioned above not to exceed 20 minutes. Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

At 7:00 p.m. the Board returned from executive session.

D. Director's Contract: Butler moved to extend the Director's contract for 1 year. The contract includes a 3.4% step increase and 1.5% COLA to be paid retroactively beginning January 1, 2012. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

E. Adjournment: Wilkerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. The April 12, 2012 Special Law Board/Budget Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.