

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 2, 2023**  
**Town Council Chambers**

**Members Present:**

Denise Bowden, Councilwoman  
Jay Savage, Councilman

**Members Absent:**

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

**Staff Present:**

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager  
Robby Fisher, Chief of Police  
Bryan Rush, EMS Director

**Other Members Present:**

Chris Bott, Councilman  
Ellen Richardson, Councilwoman

**Call to Order**

Councilwoman Bowden called the meeting to order.

**Public Participation**

There was none.

**Agenda Adoption**

**Councilman Savage motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.**

**Update on Unified Surveillance System**

Town Manager Tolbert advised the sites have been surveyed and they feel staff can do some of the work to keep costs down. He stated they will provide power by the Dog Park. The materials and equipment have been ordered. They would like to get this in within the next month.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the vandalism of the restrooms at Memorial Park.

Chief Fisher advised they have a suspect but is still under investigation.

Chief Fisher also advised of the costs associated with a new dispatch console that the ES911 would have. The cost would be \$38,769. The 1<sup>st</sup> year includes the maintenance, the cost for the additional 14 years \$60,591, which is \$4,328 annually. He explained with the maintenance cost of the current console over a 14-year span would cost \$180,000 versus \$99,360.

There was further discussion about the system.

Councilwoman Bowden stated she would like Chief Fisher to get everything together with a request so they can review it and make a recommendation to the Budget and Personnel Committee.

Discussion continued.

Councilwoman Bowden asked for Emergency Management Coordinator Rush's opinion.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush feels this is a good system for interact-ability. He is unfamiliar with the current cloud service.

Chief Fisher stated that with the current console they have a handheld backup. He added that with the new system they would be able to do away with this.

### **Review of Public Safety Reserve Account**

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the Public Safety fund balance. He feels the new console would be the perfect way to expense some of the money.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if Public Works had anything for Public Safety.

There was discussion about increased traffic at the south end of the Island, signage, and possibly delineators.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they have put a little more money into Public Works safety. They have purchased some safety clothing, PPEs, hardhats, etc. He added that there are a few pieces of equipment that could use some safety features. He also stated that the reason he was interested in having Public Works included in Public Safety is sidewalks which define the path of a pedestrian from the path of cars.

There was further discussion.

Town Manager Tolbert advised he and Public Works Director Parks have been looking into the way of sidewalks on south Main Street. They may need to change the side of the street, get permission from the Army Corps of Engineers, and easements from property owners. He also advised another area of public safety that would need sidewalks would be on Maddox Blvd. from Eel Creek to the circle. He feels it's possible for sidewalks on south Main Street.

Chief Fisher also talked about the increase in the County's retirement for Police and EMS.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush advised that it would give him substantially more per month. He stated that maybe they can look at improving benefits. He stated that retention of employees is important.

Employee retirement benefits were discussed.

Councilwoman Bowden requested they put their heads together to discuss retention and benefits.

**Adjournment**

**Councilman Savage motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adjourn the meeting. All present were in favor and the motion was approved.**