

Date: January 29, 2009

Members: Art Harris, Jeff Papa, Dan Montgomery

Public Safety Subcommittee

Chief Rick Dowden, Zionsville Police Department, met with the Subcommittee to offer his thoughts on the reorganization process. He noted that ZPD has the training capacity to take whatever action the New Town Council directs him to take. While his understanding is that any expansion of ZPD jurisdiction will be in the future and incremental in nature, ZPD has the training officer capacity to expand at whatever rate ordered (although funding for any major expansion would be problematic).

He noted that ZPD currently has 22 total certified officers, and 17 of those are patrol officers. His expectation is that nothing will change in the near future with the two-tier districting. The main anticipated problem is direct calls from the rural district from citizens who believe they are now in the "town," but are actually under the Sheriff's primary jurisdiction. This problem is increasing as people are confused by the reorganization terminology. Currently, ZPD makes about 30 responses per month outside corporate Zionsville; Sheriff's deputies rarely enter the town as primary responders, although both agencies assist on mutual aid basis and on major crises as needed, without a written contract. Can ZPD maintain its current service level if calls from outside the jurisdiction become more frequent?

The Subcommittee asked Chief Dowden what his criteria is for expanding the ZPD. He stated that he uses a formula of 1 new officer needed for each additional 500 citizens. This number was calculated by looking at FBI statistics and the practice of our neighboring communities. ZPD has recently rewritten its strategic plan to take the reorganization into account. ZPD is currently at maximum capacity for investigative work. The subcommittee asked the approximate cost to "start" a new officer, and Chief Dowden stated that an approximate cost is \$125,000, with cost going down in year two as the officer has already been provisioned and trained and costs lower to salary and maintenance of equipment. 2009 budget of ZPD is approximately \$2.8 million.

The Subcommittee determined to hold its next meeting on February 10, 2009 at 6:30, and to invite Fire Chief VanGorder to attend at 6:30, and to invite Sheriff Campbell to attend the same meeting at 7 p.m.