Neighborhood Safety Commission
October 18, 2018

Guests - Steve Gaynor of FOP and Chief Crider of Fire and Chief of Police Register

Director Heaton was there

Members:
Carol M
Larry G
Tim H
Joel C
Glenn M.
Carl D
Joe G
Karen H
Joan B
Jeff W

Meeting began at 830 am and called to order by Carol M

Chief Crider gave his report

Trying to fill vacant positions
Additional personnel staffed
Technical rescue team in the south end of Cobb
Rescues on the River
Staffing for Station 29 in the Cumberland area. County is seeking a location which is provided for in the SPLOST. Identified the need for a high rise station back in 2005 or 2006
Braves stadium did not create demand for the high rise station as some allege
Response times are everything in fire world
Just opened FS 18 on Mars Hill
Looking for land for the station in the Canton Road corridor
Selecting contractor for the station on Hicks and Hurt
Station on Mableton Parkway is already under construction

98% of funds comes from property taxre
Fire trucks have to be looked at both in terms of mileage on the truck as a whole and on the wear and tear of fire pumps
Numbers of overall applicants to be fire fighters are dropping. In old days, County might have 2000 applicants and now, we might struggle to get 400
Struggling with demographics and hiring which reflect the County that they serve and he referenced language barriers
Many kids want to go to college instead and he knows that the salaries are not competitive. Many do not know how to operate chainsaws and heavy machinery
Chief said that you do not want 50 some things on a fire truck

Karen asked if the 30 year career to retirement is typical and Chief said that It is

Carol M asked if the retirement is the

same for Fire as other county departments and he said that it is

Tim,H said that work force development in the schools is a big effort and Chief said that Fire is partnering with STEM students and telling kids how fires start using scientific methods.

Chief said that the testing and credit checks and physical requirements are weeding out 7 out of 8 applicants

Joel asked of the trends in the fire dept and he said Fire has partnered with the KSU department to analyze the stats. He also said that 70 to 72 % of the calls are for EMS and 1-2 % are structure fires. He also talked of community responses where certain homes have a lot of repeat calls and so talked of working where staff are administering medicine to citizens in the home

Chief talked of the accreditation response

Director Heaton said Chairman Byrne's said that Cobb would pay 5% more than the surrounding counties and retirement was different. Retirement is where we are losing employees as salaries are in the range with other jurisdictions

Tim H asked of the role of environment and Director Heaton said people in Cobb are quality people. Director Heaton said that we lose people to the cities in the north Fulton area and to the federal employees

Carol M asked how we can support them

Steve Gaynor of the FOP and is president of local lodge

Recruitment and retention are some of

the biggest challenges. Not a guarantee of funds like Fire. Depends on the BOD and the budget.

He hears the BOC to say that we are no 1 and that they need to vote that way. He is not sure if they understand the reality

You cannot have older people on the fire trucks

There are not many office jobs

Public safety needs to have a step program - different than other County staff. Need to know what you will

Need to work on the payroll deduction program. County needs to allow this

He is only asking is for a computer change to permit a deduction from the paycheck - been asking for over 1 year

FOP is not a union in GA

Retention - Chair has given them 21 slots but need to fill the 60 that they originally have

He said that IA has some internal report to compare to other departments in other jurisdictions and to the cities

He said that the County needs to break away its employees from other County

Director Heaton said that they are working on a large report to look at incentives and the retirement and talking to HR

Gaynor said that Chair told him that Sandy Springs and the cities are smaller and can better afford these benefits

Gaynor said that we are 90 cars behind

The County needs to keep processing those cars

Precincts have trouble accessing pool cars

East and West Cobb are suffering on call volume because of the fact that South Cobb has a high call volume. He said he told an East Cobb resident that they really are paying for the costs of the officers

Commissioner Cupid has requested a police cooperation on Riverside Parkway with admin. There is not money in the budget for this. This only adds to the burdens. We need to work within the funds we have

Chief Register stood up and asked where are we getting the staff to man the sub-station on Riverside Parkway. Not saying

that it is not needed

Chief Register said we need to have 60 more officers as per the IACAP report

Chief Register said call volume is going up each year

Community Affairs is an excellent effort and it has helped said Mr. Gaynor

Joel asked Director Heaton for some specific suggestions on how we can help in the areas identified

Carol M said that on Monday, October 22 Commissioner Weatherford asked her to present a report to the work session of the BOC

Joe G moved, and Glenn seconded, and so the minutes from last month were approved

Joe G and Karen H spoke of having a community meeting sponsored by the NSC and Karen said she is in talks with Cobb Schools as to location. Carlton will help. Trying to find a location before the festival of Dawali in November. Topic will concern the targeting of East Asian community and burglaries. Karen said we are looking to have a space which has a 200 person capacity.

Joe G said that NSC facilitates this, and yet it is the Cobb PD who runs the meeting or meetings

Karen said that the assailants against the East Asian community are from Colombia

Joan Bloom would like to have someone who is from each precinct to speak to us

Joan Bloom mentioned that we need to

discuss the homeless issue and how it is really bad in Precinct 1. Joel and Karen said that there are such issues in their respective precincts

Jeff W referenced the comment from Director Heaton as to the Safety Village and referenced how we as a group could write a letter to the Editor.

Carol M said we have to be careful to be discrete when speaking in public

Discussion as to whether to meet or not in November

Meeting is adjourned at 950 am