

**Minutes of Cobb County Neighborhood Safety Commission Meeting**  
**May 17th, 2019 8:30-10am**  
**Cobb Co Commissioners' 3rd Floor board room**

**Attendees:**

Carol Massey, Chair  
Andy Smith, Vice Chair  
Carl Dimare  
Carlton Stott  
Scott Tucker  
Karen Hallacy  
Joel Gavalis  
Sam Heaton

- Members introduced themselves and new members were recognized
- Bios were discussed. Andy S. to send out a template and example to make these simpler.

Suzanne's presentation:

- Department of Public Safety making 2020 budget
- Police Chief position open; search is inside and outside
- Tim Cox is Interim Chief
- Shana Luke is new Animal Services Director
- Fast & Furry 5K June 15 at 8:00 am
- Officer on the street is first served; old equipment to detectives
- Names to be added to Memorial at the Square
- Police Officer Class #50 – 18 recruits in week 14
  
- Fire Department
  - Engine #9 to be replaced
  - Received donation of 29 grills (one for each station)
  - 53 recruits graduated
  - Future classes to be split fire/EMS training for more efficiency
  
- Animal Services
  - Fast and Fury 5K on 6/15/2019 at 8:00 am

Nicole continued the presentation:

- Department of Public Safety
  - 161 vacancies (excluding Sheriff)
  - 24 911
  - 48 Fire plus 3 civilian
  - 81 Police (sworn) plus 7 civilian
  - 6 Animal Services
  - 1 Safety Village

- 1 DPS Admin
- The Police Academy graduation rate required to sustain the correct number of officers was discussed
  - Answer is unknown due to number of retirements anticipated
  - Recruitment and retention are still top priorities

#### Director Register's Report

- Fire Department needs larger class sizes
  - 2017/2018 almost 800 initial applicants
  - 316 didn't complete paperwork – reasons unknown
  - Working on improving tracking system; improved system may improve results
  - Fire Department has no full time recruiter
  - Fire Department testing currently only offered once per year; to be increased to enlarge applicant pool
  - Similar recent change in Police procedures resulted in only 50 or 60 of 860 applicants not completing paperwork
  - 5% increase in minority hiring per year target over next three years
- Police Department Highlights:
  - Changing testing procedures (including PT) to allow test to be administered offsite
  - Still focusing on quality over quantity despite need for increased numbers
  - Current training facility a limitation; new facility opening in 2021
  - Training times:
    - Police 26 week training then Field training for +/- 20 weeks
    - Fire 10-11 months plus EMS for total of 18 months
  - Lateral entry for existing officers reduces training time
    - Only two lateral entry officers during Chief Register's tenure
  - Staffing issues affecting the implementation of many new initiatives
  - Stop arm cameras
    - Currently on 20% of buses
    - Thousands of violations per year
  - 911 Funds – State now funding 911 (funding is currently short). May have shortfall if state doesn't catch up.
  - EMA
    - GPS beacons used in searches to better control coverage
    - Grant money currently funding EMA has been reduced by 40%
    - Transitioning to General Fund
  - Public Safety Foundation
    - Now a 501c3
    - Will be able to help all branches in coming years

#### New Business:

- Discussed pay and compensation
  - 60 vacancies (police) is "normal" level
  - Speak to our commissioner about solutions

- Discussed media coverage and information dissemination
- Chairman Boyce and County Manager Hosack confirmed for next meeting (6/21/2019)
- Minutes from 3/15/2019 meeting approved