

## **Police Budget Advisory Board Minutes 1-8-24:**

Present: Andrew Spink (AS), James McCorkle (JM), Amaris Elliott-Engel (AEE), Jeremy Busch (JB), Stefanie Newcomb (SN) (City Comptroller), Jim Kennedy (JK) (County Supervisor for Geneva Supervisory District 1)

Absent: Geoffrey Geiger, Michele Neary, Robert Maclean

### Stefanie's budget presentation:

There are not a lot of significant changes from 2023 budget.

We are anticipating \$28,000 from auction of old vehicle.

We filled one police officer vacancy on Dec 26, 2023, and there are 3-4 potential recruits in background interview process. We're hopeful to fill remaining vacancies. If we can get 2 more recruits in the next few weeks, we can send them to the same training facility.

Citywide surveillance cameras are under the IT budget, but they are working with GPD about where they will be installed.

Some items on budget went down due to less costs, such as postage.

When SN and the City Manager asked for budget proposals with a 12% reduction, they excluded salary because that's contractually mandated.

The increase from \$3.3 million to \$3.8 million is primarily due to contractual pay increase. In 2023 the savings from having vacant GPD positions is offset by having to pay overtime to current officers. The increase is from the contractual pay increase, not due to expecting vacant positions to be filled.

What are "shared services?" Some of it is for example, the court system, if they need extra support from GPD. Or say if a GPD officer is called to testify in Ontario County, there is a reimbursement, or if they're pulled into SWAT somewhere else.

### Mental Health in Geneva:

AEE asked could "shared services" be a model for solving mental health response?

City of Geneva cannot take on a full-time mental health service. But shared service model could be a way to do this. And having shared service is better for your grant reporting.

GPD has tablets to call into Clifton Springs, and if a mental health professional is available, then the person can have a conversation right there. First, having the tablet available is a challenge, and having an officer available is also an issue.

JK brought up two councilors who are no longer on council who gave him the impression that there was unmet need when it came to mental health response. And also, quality of the tablet call isn't good. He asked how many times are the tablet used?

SN says the quality of the tablets isn't always great, but when a problem with connection quality has occurred, it wasn't always documented when this occurred.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) study from 2022 had determined that in a year, 154 calls were classified as mental health in the City of Geneva in a year.

JM asks what is the \$36,000 on training?

SN says it's roughly \$300 of training for each officer, and the rest is the training academy for the new officers. GPD is looking into mental health training for officers. Also, the City Manager has money for training on this topic.

AS outlined the 3 types of mental health response. 1) train police officers for mental health response, 2) co-responder team, where officers and non-officers respond together 3) mobile response team without an officer. The PBAB report from April 2023 took the position that Option 1 is less good than options 2 and 3.

JM says it could be a good idea to allow officers to pursue education about social work, and have it be an actual credential, not just a one-off training.

JK asks what is best-practice evidence base approach for determining what trainings are good for officers for Option #1? The board isn't sure on that.

JK also asks about multi-county service (for example sharing services with Waterloo in Seneca County).

SN says that could be a good idea, but we've explored interest in that. But no discussions with Ontario County Sheriff yet.

JB also brings up the issue of police officers getting mental health support services for their own mental health.

SN says there has previously been a discussion about victim advocacy assistance, but having it be a shared space for mental health space for officers.

JK wants to know the current utilization of Employee Assistance Program (EAP), since that is an existing benefit. For the county employees you get 8 free therapist visits.

AS says a community member who heard our presentation to City Council last April expressed the view that a tablet was not a good substitute for human interaction when it came to mental health response.

JK says it makes sense to have follow-up about the whether the person has utilized services after the initial contact.

Onondaga County also just pulled in state money for mental health.

Sen. Manion got money for a program in Syracuse of \$100,000. Even if we had this, it wouldn't solve the problem of how you determine long-term how it would be funded here. Would such a person serve Ontario County? Two counties? Just City of Geneva. City of Geneva itself probably doesn't have enough volume for a staff member since it's only 154 calls in one year (which is one every two days, and likely not enough to justify a full-time position)

JK says it makes sense to determine what EAP is not covering. It's unclear if GPD is using this to the fullest extent.

SN says it also makes sense to figure out the low-hanging fruit of what's already covered.

JM did note that between officer wellness, plus victim assistance, plus 154 calls per year, the work adds up.

JK asks how we add up the 154 calls, and break them down by severity, and demographics of whether adults or children, and other things. We don't really understand the data. And what about substance use?

We pulled up DCJS report during the meeting and saw it did list a separate category of drug and alcohol overdoses, but it's unclear as to the other information JK asked about regarding mental health.

SN says the categories and customization of categories doesn't necessary track all the different types of MH calls. SN it could be worth looking in different subcategories of mental health responses.

JM asks if there are other areas of budget we would want in granular detail.

JB asks what if we request a grant to fund research to look into things.

JM brought up very high number of property checks.

SN was curious whether a non-emergency number could be beneficial, so an officer isn't brought in. Multi-department response is also something to look at. For example, the majority of calls made to the Fire Dept are actually medical, and we're working on some being trained as EMTs.

JK says also important to think of someone who is not necessarily a licensed social worker, but could still assist with response.

February 5, 2023 at 6 PM.