

NON-FLOOD ASSET PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2010 – 12:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Police Committee of the Non-Flood Asset Protection Management Authority was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 12:00 P.M., in the Lake Vista Community Center, 2nd Floor, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member, the news media, and a copy of the call was posted.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dufrechou at 12:25 P.M.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

PRESENT:

Chairman Carlton Dufrechou
Commissioner Romona Theresa Baudy

ABSENT:

Commissioner Darrel Saizan

STAFF:

Nick Tusa, OLD-PD
Sharon Martiny, OLD

ALSO PRESENT:

Police Chief Richard Lewis
Major Donald Booth

OPENING COMMENTS

Chairman Dufrechou opened with a moment of silent reflection for our folks over seas that are protecting us and also our first responders that are with us here today and throughout the country.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Dufrechou offered a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Baudy, and unanimously adopted.

PRESENTATIONS

a. Presentation on Police Budget

Mr. Capo presented the Police Budget going forward for this current fiscal year. Police have two sources listed in the revenue column; one is the 50/50 cost share with the Flood Division and the other is the payment for the use of take home vehicles by the individual police officers.

The Flood Authority has agreed by MOU to split the cost of the police with us and that amounts to approximately \$1.344 million this fiscal year. Other Revenue (Take Home Vehicles) in the amount of \$37,500 is what the police pay to have a take-home vehicle. Each police officer pays \$125 per month for use of the take-home vehicle. There are 33 police, one clerical, three in administration and two are on leave in Iraq. There is one car per person. Major Booth informed that there are 29 vehicles plus four spares.

Mr. Capo stated that the only new vehicles we purchased were with FEMA money for the vehicles that we lost in Hurricane Katrina. Prior to that we were able to purchase vehicles for \$2-\$3,000 each, some as low as \$1,800 for state police vehicles equipped with complete police packages. We just had to re-stripe the vehicle with the OLD Police insignia. That is one way of saving on some of the additional costs involved in purchasing vehicles.

Chairman Dufrechou asked if the \$1.344 million on the income side from the Flood portion of the Authority is in perpetuity or for a certain time line and Mr. Capo informed that is in perpetuity unless something changes. It is adjusted each year depending on the actual cost.

Chairman Dufrechou questioned how the shortfall of \$1,269,000 is made up. Mr. Capo responded that it is picked up by the Non-Flood side. It is combined with all of the other expenses, and the shortfall at the end of the year is made up from the Bally's settlement. This year we are proposing the transfer of approximately \$2.5 million from the Bally's settlement in to our operating income. This settlement will be depleted at some point in the future.

Mr. Capo informed that the cost for police on a yearly basis is bare bones, nothing additional for the police. Equipment is repaired as needed, depending on the cost of the equipment. We may not repair a vehicle if the costs are too high or not practical.

Chairman Dufrechou then inquired if there was anything that was absolutely needed safety-wise that is not in the budget and suggested that the Chief and Major Booth find that out. I hope we don't need to spend more but if we do it is better to know it now.

Major Booth stated that in the future we are going to have to replace automobiles. The deal with the state police has been great and we could live

with that for years to come. The only problem is the state police is having the same kind of budget problems everybody else in the State of Louisiana is having. The cars are replaced only when the old ones can't be fixed any longer. It is Major Booth's suggestion that cars be replaced yearly on a rotating basis. That will save money in the long run on maintenance expenses. Most maintenance is done in-house with the major work being outsourced such as engines or transmissions, which on occasion are obtained from salvage yards to save money. Two of the shops do this as a favor to us to try and keep our expenses down.

Chief Lewis then addressed the need for updated computers, as the computers are obsolete and the software is not keeping up with today's standards. We can't get half of the information we need from different agencies and even district information through different systems within the Levee Board. The computers are not compatible with NOPD

Chairman Dufrechou requested that Chief Lewis and Mr. Capo review this to see if it is something we can do.

Mr. Capo stated he discussed the issue of new computers with the Chief and agrees that the computers do need upgrades. However, Mr. Capo will look at funding to see if we can afford new computers and how many. Upgrading the computers for the office staff, the Chief, and Major Booth will be investigated and Mr. Capo will come back to the Committee with a recommendation.

Chairman Dufrechou questioned Inner Division Goods/Services, \$56,000 and Mr. Capo explained that it is an accounting mechanism used between Flood and Non-Flood to get repair work done such as tires, oil changes, any type of minor maintenance on the vehicles or supplies that the police may need. We propose during this fiscal year that the Police Department will spent approximately \$50,500 on service and repairs and use approximately \$105,000.00 in fuel and another \$60,000 in parts and service to maintain the police vehicles. All major maintenance repair work is sent to outside repair facilities. The fuel breakdown is approximately \$9,000 per month.

Mr. Capo noted for the Committee that 2011 Agency Wide budget is just bare bones to keep operating.

Commissioner Baudy questioned ways to cut costs. Chief Lewis advised that the only things that can be cut are take-home vehicles but that is a benefit to make up for the money that the other agencies are getting. If you take that last benefit away, then they are going to go somewhere else and you are going to loose your officers. The starting pay for officers is approximately \$17.00 per hour.

Mr. Capo informed that the total expenditure for police, including equipment, is \$2.6 million.

At this point, the quorum was lost and the meeting became informational.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Lewis requested to start a Reserve Division because pre-Katrina on weekends and major holidays the lakefront was extremely crowded with visitors. We had 45 police officers to maintain a visual over the crowd. Due to that constant visibility, we had very few incidents. The crowds have been down the last 5 years but with the entire lakefront opening next year we are going to run into the same problems again with the large crowds. The Reserve Division would be prior commissioned officers that are in good standing and keeping it mainly to x-Levee District employees or retired Levee District employees. Major Booth has

a list of 3-4 potential candidates and maybe one or two Causeway police officers that used to work with us previously. This is an option to increase manpower. The expense would not be much, badges and a few radios if we don't have enough. Mr. Capo will investigate the issue of insurance with the Risk Manager and present a quote. It is Mr. Capo's opinion that a Reserve Division is the one way we can sustain our police force, increase coverage and not have to salaries and benefits.

Major Booth reported that they are proposing 16 hours per month be donated to the department by the Reserve Division, including work on Sundays to supplement the regular officers, therefore, reducing overtime. We are down to 30 people and the lakefront will be opened by the end of next summer.

Chairman Dufrechou questioned the need for personnel by 2012 and Major Booth responded that would be something we might look at in the future - increasing the size of the department to handle a Sunday crowd.

Chairman Dufrechou then questioned detail rates to be paid and Major Booth pointed out that they are reserve officers and they get no compensation. It is a form of community policing. Mr. Capo explained that is where the liability exposure comes into play because they will be operating under the uniform of the Levee District Police while working an off duty detail, not a active full time employee of the District. Major Booth added that they would be very selective.

Chairman Dufrechou then asked for questions or comments and hearing none, addressed the next meeting date.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Capo announced that the next Police Committee meeting will be held November 30 at 12:00 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dufrechou called for adjournment.