

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD,
HELD AT THE CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 21, 2013 AT 5:00 P.M.

Voting Members Present: Jim Walls
Jason Shirley
Bob Scholl
Henry Castaneda, Sr.
Louie Methola
Greg Brown

Voting Members Absent: Lionel Munoz

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Janell Whitlock

Board Secretary Present: Chief Daniel Fierro

Others Present: Nicole Serrano
Robert Steincamp
Damian Quintela

Jim Walls called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson Jim Walls call roll for each voting member and determined there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to move approve the agenda made by Jim Walls and seconded by Jason Shirley
(roll call vote taken)

YES – Jim Walls

YES - Jason Shirley

YES – Bob Scholl

YES – Henry Castaneda

YES – Louie Methola

Jason Shirley made a motion to move #3 on the agenda to the end and seconded by Jim Walls
(rol call vote taken)

YES – Jim Walls

YES – Jason Shirley

YES – Bob Scholl

YES – Henry Castaneda

YES – Louie Methola

UPDATE BY CHIEF FIERRO

Chief Fierro provided an update on the Sleuth Program, which is the CAD and RMS program the police department uses. They have been having issues with it and are trying to get it to work. The City Administrator has asked for a copy of the contract with Sleuth so that the City Attorney can review it to see if there is anything we can do to resolve the issues. The City is holding the second half of the payment, approximately \$60,000.00 for that program, until they can fix the problem and make it work. The Police Department will pull out of the agreement and go with something different if they can't fix it. The Sheriff's office is looking at a program called CAPERS. Chief Fierro got invited to go look at a demonstration. If we have to go with a different program and can't get anything back out of the Sleuth program, we will be out \$60,000.00. If the City makes the decision to go with another program, it will cost approximately another \$100,000.00. It's been about three years that the police department has been trying to get the Sleuth program to run properly. It's been wasted time, but the department needs something that is going to work for them. This program is the core of the police department.

The next council meeting will review the interim budget. The Chief has looked at what the budget committee has tentatively approved. The Department is getting some cars, and additional personnel. Once the council approves the interim budget, it will be the end result. Normally, once the council approves the budget, the state will approve it. The Department will be starting off well in July with a good budget. We got approved for two detectives and one animal control officer. There were three patrol officers requested but they were cut out. We currently have six officers in the academy and they will be done in June. Once they graduate from the academy, they have a little classroom time to do and then they will be released to go out to the streets. They may not all go into "patrol". Jason Shirley asked how many officers are budgeted for and if the department is still short patrol personnel. Chief Fierro said there are still five vacancies but we have more people in the pool than we have vacancies. It probably won't be until the end of June when all the vacancies are filled.

Bob Scholl said he read in the Current Argus the City isn't going to have their audit in on time and the Chief said that wouldn't affect us.

Jim Walls asked how much longer the department is going to dwell on the Sleuth program that is not working. The Chief said the City attorney is reviewing it and it will all depend on what she determines about the contract, whether we can cancel it and pull out of it. We are not the ones defaulting on it. The problem is probably more the company. The service of the company is the biggest issue. The program can work. The company had an office in New Mexico but it was closed down. The computers needed to run the program are now installed in the units but there is no connectivity to the program.

OTHER COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS

Jason Shirley discussed the use of a Facebook page by the CAB. The City requires that the use of such media be submitted to the City Administrator for approval. He said it's a valuable tool

and we are allowed to use it. Since the function of this board is to be the go between between the community and the police department, it will be beneficial. Jason Shirley invited Damian Quintela to explain how Facebook can benefit the CAB. He said he hopes the social media can help gain a confidence for the police department. He would like feedback but wants it to be monitored and controlled so it doesn't get out of hand.

Damian explained how social media now is what the phone lines were twenty years ago, which if the population being able to communicate. It's basically, using technology to communicate. It's used as a tool to channel information back and forth and for the community to know what the CAB is about and relay information to them. Out of 27,000 people in Carlsbad, 22,000 are facebook users. The Carlsbad Current Argus circulation is currently 4,000. With just a push of a button, you can reach Carlsbad at a mass. And the cost is just a fraction of a penny if you're going to advertise. Facebook is a way to communicate to Carlsbad as a whole and you have control over that channel. Shirley explained if it would be labor intensive in order to control the page and keep it updated. He said the board would have to discuss what they want the full function of their facebook page to be. As far as distributing content, it's simple and fast. He said that not all members have the technology, but not everyone has to be on it. The technology is far more effective and cheaper than the newspaper distribution. The standard facebook page is free. Jason Shirley also said there will be instances where comments will get out of hand, but they will be monitored and kept under control. The Carlsbad Police Department uses their facebook page quite a bit and it has been successful.

Damian mentioned that most people no longer subscribe to the Current Argus or cable or any other media service. The communication highway is growing over the internet. Jim Walls asked if since the City wants to make sure the page is correct, if they are going to approve or disapprove what comments are made. Jason Shirley answered by saying no, that's how the page is monitored by the board. The board member who is monitoring the page will set the page how they want it set. The City Council just wants to know who is administering the page. The posts will be made by a board member. Damian showed the board members not familiar with facebook how facebook works.

Mr. Walls thanked Damian for coming to the meeting and explaining the facebook process to them. Mr. Scholl asked if Robert Steincamp could possibly fill one of the board vacancies. Chief Fierro explained we have to know which ward he lived in since the positions are based on wards. Mr. Steincamp said he lived in Ward 2. The vacant positions are in wards 2 and 4. Mr. Steincamp said he would like to be submitted to city council to be placed on the board. Mr. Walls said he is still looking in his ward for someone to fill the other vacancy.

APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES (3/19/13) & 4/16/13)

Motion to approve past meeting's minutes was made by Jim Walls and seconded Jason Shirley.
(roll call vote taken)

YES- Jason Shirley

YES - Louie Methola

YES - Bob Scholl

YES - Henry Castaneda

YES - Jim Walls

*Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Walls moved that the meeting be adjourned, it was seconded by Bob Scholl

(roll call vote taken)

YES - Jim Walls

YES - Jason Shirley

YES - Louie Methola

YES - Bob Scholl

YES - Henry Castaneda

*Motion passed

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

 

Approved Date