

Council Present:

Omar Bowles
Richard Heyman
Dave Stram

Holly Campbell
Adam Pelatt
Jane Vincent

Staff Present:

Michelle Amberg
Sgt. Billy Halvorson

City Administrator
Lane County
Sheriff's Office

Council Absent: 0

Press: 1 - Creswell Chronicle – Scott Olson

Audience: 5

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Dave Stram at 6:03 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

1. Presentation – Policing Study presented by Portland State University

A power point presentation was given by Kent Robinson, Rachel Sykes and Rebecca Craven from Portland State University. Handouts were available for City Council, media and a limited number of the public. The study examined the cost effectiveness of providing policing services via three different alternatives: 1) a municipal department, 2) a special district under contract with a Creswell municipal department, and 3) a county service district under ORS 451.010. A stand-alone independent district for policing is not allowed under Oregon State Law and was included in the study but is not a viable option at this time.

The study found that the current contract between Creswell and Lane County Sheriff's Office is both cost effective and provides a good level of service within the City based on the demand for services. A municipal police department would be the most expensive alternative and will present several organizational challenges (recruiting, training, supervision, retention, risk management, serious response types, etc.). A county service district is an option which would provide policing services outside of city limits (possibly covering the Creswell School District area) but will require additional revenue via property tax as well as an election to establish the district.

The Municipal Police Department option is estimated to cost \$1 million to \$1.4 million dollars resulting in an estimated additional tax revenue requirement of \$4.50 to \$5.10 per \$1000 assessed valuation on properties within the City Limits. Option 2 is the most expensive alternative with an estimated revenue requirement of \$1.9 million in operating costs annually and significant start-up costs. The cost of establishing a county service district is dependent upon a number of as yet undetermined factors; estimated annual operating costs is \$1.3 million.

Councilor Bowles (Chair of the City Council Public Safety Committee) stated that there are two questions to answer: 1) Do we want a police department that covers just Creswell?, and 2) Do we want to pay for it?

Councilor Vincent asked what are we getting for the money, how many people, what is the coverage? Prices are not going to stay the same every year - is what we are paying the LCSO now comparable to what it would cost us to start our own police department or district with the personnel that is proposed? Councilor Bowles explained how staffing is currently shared with LCSO so an independent police department will require more staffing. Costs will go up every year in any of the options.

Councilor Campbell thanked the presenters for the study. She asked whether they had talked with people outside the city limits. Kent Robinson replied that there was no discussion with people outside the city. The scope of the study was to look at performance levels for the various options presented. Councilor Bowles stated that he has spoken with people in several areas outside city limits along Market Road and Camas Swale and they all have a desire to be covered. The question is do they want to pay for it through taxes?

Councilor Bowles explained that the service district would have its own tax rate which would be in addition to current property taxes. Councilor Campbell was surprised to find out that Creswell is among the lowest cost per capita for police service under the current contract arrangement. Kent Robinson referenced the table on

page 22 of the handout (note that Sheridan's costs are based on a fiscal year 14/15 whereas all others are based on fiscal year 15/16). Councilor Campbell asked about the difference in costs between Veneta and Creswell since we have similar contracts. The per capita costs is based on the overall cost of the contract spread over assessed value and Veneta has one more officer with a lower overall assessed value.

A member of the public asked about how taxing would work in the county area. Mr. Robinson told the council that the steps for forming a county service district are found in ORS 451. This was followed by a general discussion regarding how a county service district might be formed, how it might be configured, and what it might cost as well as the election timelines.

Mayor Stram asked about Veneta's desire to move forward with a new policing district (Fern Ridge), is it true that the Lane County Sheriff has the capacity to quickly increase service delivery? Sergeant Halvorson replied that the answer is very complicated. A County Sheriff's Office is required by law to provide a jail, civil service, and search and rescue. It is difficult to predict the budget for the Sheriff's Office in the future; for example, will an officer be willing to work for the county given that there could be lay-off's in the following year? Councilor Bowles stated that the deputies employed under contract have security for the term of the contract.

Mayor Stram asked about adjustments to the tax levied by the City as well as the public safety fee. Mr. Robinson provided an explanation of how a permanent rate is set and how it differs from a local operating levy. City Administrator Amberg stated that a tax levy adjustment is a policy issue for the City Council to discuss and decide. There are a lot of questions that would have to be answered before a decision could be made and a permanent rate could be calculated and this was not included in the scope for the study presented tonight. The rates presented in the study are solely for the purpose of comparison.

Mayor Stram asked about service demand as shown in the study. Crime levels in Creswell compare favorably with other cities. The crime rate in Creswell is on the lower end for Lane County. Creswell is a small geographic area. He asked if the service levels currently provided are adequate. Mr. Robinson indicated that service levels seem to be good but that data regarding response time was not available from the Lane County Sheriff's Office; however, the response time is probably pretty good due to the small response area.

Mayor Stram observed that there needs to be considerable support from people outside the city limits in addition to support from City Council to create a county service district.

Sergeant Halvorson provided some information on the proposed Fern Ridge County Service District (FernRidgecpd.com). A presentation on the proposed service district will be made to the Lane County Commissioners tomorrow at 10:00 am.

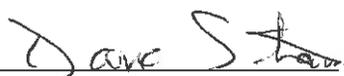
The Mayor will place a discussion regarding policing services on the November 23, 2015 City Council Work Session Agenda if there is time on the agenda.

2. Upcoming Meeting and Events

- A. October 22, 2015 – Planning Commission – 6:30 pm
- B. October 26, 2015 – Special City Council Meeting – 6:00 pm
- C. October 26, 2015 – City Council Work Session – following Special Meeting
- D. November 2, 2015 – Open House – Lane Transportation Plan Committee
Community Center – 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

3. Adjournment

There being no further discussion to come before the Council, Mayor Stram adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.


Dave Stram, Mayor


Roberta J Tharp, City Recorder