



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dan Smoker
Vice Chair Kerstin Keough
Nate Marsh
Janet Peterson
Carl Smith
Steve Thayer
Mike Wells
Chrissy Williams

Thursday, April 1, 2021

3:00 PM

PSTF North Building - Red Room
301 Malibu St.

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that all times indicated on the agenda are approximate and interested parties are encouraged to be present earlier than the posted time.

The Public Safety Commission meets monthly.

Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Smoker called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.

GUESTS - Commander Sam Varela - Police

Present 7 - Janet Peterson, Vice Chair Kerstin Keough, Chairperson Dan Smoker, Nate Marsh, Carl Smith, Steve Thayer, and Mike Wells

Not Present 1 - Chrissy Williams

Attendance 5 - Norris Croom, Jack Cauley, Deborah Stanley, Becky Hernandez, and Laura Cavey

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2021-013](#) Public Safety Commission meeting minutes - Mar. 4, 2021

Attachments: [PSC 03-04-2021 Minutes](#)

Mr. Marsh moved to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Yes: 7 - Peterson, Vice Chair Keough, Chairperson Smoker, Marsh, Smith, Thayer, and Wells

Not Present: 1 - Williams

Fire Department Report

[PS 2021-011](#) CRFD February Report

Attachments: [CRFD February Report](#)

- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Fire Department's February report prior to today's meeting.
 - The February report mentioned the formation of a sleep study. South Metro Fire is going through a sleep study. Maybe Castle Rock could join their study? Presently, we are looking at all aspects of this issue, to include our sleeping quarters. This is a nationwide issue and impacts doctors, nurses, fire and police - Chief Croom.

- How many agencies here in Colorado are internationally accredited (this would be good information to use, if asking for a mill levy increase)? Statewide, there are 20 agencies that are internationally accredited and 288 agencies in the US - Chief Croom.
- A copy of the Fire Department's 2021 Master Plan Draft was emailed to commission members this morning.
 - The draft, which is a sneak peek of the upcoming Master Plan, was presented to Council March 30. The master plan will be presented to Council on May 4.
 - The plan identifies current and future challenges, addresses additional station needs and discusses the need for alternative revenue sources.
 - Some of the future challenges are based on "if/then" statements as they relate to future growth.
 - The Fire Department uses national standards and accreditation criteria to drive its plan.
 - Comment made on the number of staff member requests. Would like an additional meeting to go over the Master Plan.
 - Chairperson Smoker asked commission members to read the Master Plan within the next week. The commission could decide on having an additional meeting, if needed, at that time.
 - Chief Croom is available for questions.
- The mask mandate has been extended another month. The Governor is expected to make an announcement on April 16, giving counties control of local COVID guidance.
 - Currently, Douglas County has the highest COVID numbers in the state.
 - Does the County collect vaccine numbers? Tri-County Health Department does. All vaccinations are reported to the state which breaks them down by zip code. 78.9% of Douglas County residents over the age of 70 have been vaccinated - Chief Croom.
- The Fire Department will begin its 2021 and 5-year budget process tomorrow.
 - The process is expected to extend into May.
 - At last night's Council session, additional funding options were reviewed. Included in the discussion were lodging taxes, increased tobacco and excise taxes and increasing impact fees. Strictly discussions, no decisions were made.
 - Will there be a budget open house in June? Yes, the Town is planning an open house. The date has not been set. Will notify the commission when the date is known - Chief Croom.
 - What percentage of the general fund supports the Fire and Police departments? The Fire and Police Departments each receive between 29 and 30 percent of the general fund. From a mill levy standpoint, the average household

contributes \$37, which funds Fire and Police for 15 days - Chief Croom.

- Chief Croom has been following the Ketamine bill (HB21-1251) that is headed to the Colorado House for consideration.
 - Bill would restrict a police officer's influence on EMS staff when it concerns chemical restraints.
 - Any sedative administration would be weight based and patients would need to be weighed prior to receiving any sedative.
 - Are there other drugs that could be substituted for ketamine? Most are weight based. There are some that are straight dosage but these are not as effective. It is possible that the House will not allow EMS crews to use any sedatives - Chief Croom.
 - If this bill is passed, it could have national implications.
- Chief Croom was asked the size of the Fire Department's boundaries. The Town's boundary is 34 miles.
 - The department, as a result of a court order in 1986, also provides service to the fire protection district. This adds an additional 32 miles. The Town receives 5.5% of the department's operational budget from the district to help fund our services. These funds are placed into the Town's general fund.
 - Has the Town had any conversations about annexation? The Town has looked at several projects, and minimal action has been taken. Council is not seeking to annex any additional land at this time.
 - Brief discussion on mil levy collection and funding from districts.
- Compliment given to Chief Croom for the actions taken at a recent motor vehicle crash on Meadows Blvd. The crew did a good job of positioning the Engine at the scene. Chief Croom gave a brief explanation of the safety steps the department takes when responding to an incident.

Police Department Report

[PS 2021-012](#) CRPD February Report

Attachments: [CRPD February Report](#)

- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Police Department's February report prior to today's meeting.
 - The school resource officer (SRO) therapy dog is now at the schools. Miss Buttercup, has already had an impact in the schools. The Castle Rock Police Department is the first law enforcement agency in Colorado to pair a school resource officer with a therapy dog.
- A copy of the Police Department's Study Session slides was

emailed to commission members this morning.

- The department is asking for a wellness coordinator in 2025.
 - Why not now? The department is in the early stages of its total wellness program. It's a new area for the department and needs to be more developed and defined. The department can always ask for it sooner, if needed - Chief Cauley.
 - The Fire Department has a Peer Support Team. Can Police work with them? We have worked with the Fire Department's Peer Support Team. We will continue to support whatever benefits our employees. We have had clinical psychologist visits and have money in the current budget for wellness events - Chief Cauley.
- Staffing numbers for the department are less than other departments here in the metro area and nationwide. For the department to continue to provide a high level of service, they will need more resources to keep up with Town growth.
- The Police Department's Citizens Academy starts a week from today.
 - There are 30 students enrolled.
 - Registration filled up the first day it was offered.
- Chief Cauley discussed the implications of Senate Bill 62.
 - If passed, the bill would have a significant public safety impact.
 - There are a number of concerning legislations pending out there right now.
 - Hope to receive input from law enforcement and the community.
- With the staff hired in October, the department is at plus two staff members. Many agencies are understaffed at the moment.
 - Do you fear people won't want to become police officers? The law enforcement profession is seeing it now. Nationally, there are less recruits and more retirements. We will feel the repercussions of the recruiting crisis into the next decade. CRPD is benefitting from the migration of officers away from larger departments - Chief Cauley.
- Compliment given to Chief Cauley for the core save. The officer who performed CPR was just hired in October.
- Additional compliment given to Chief Cauley for the quick response to a 911 call. Officers were there in 5 minutes.
- Is the report back yet on the latest officer-involved shooting? No, not yet - Chief Cauley.

Special Presentation - Use of Force

- Use of Force - Presented by Commander Sam Varela
 - Explanation of Continuum of Force and Critical Decision-Making models.

- Is this available to the public? Yes, it is taught at the Citizens Academy and the Your Town Academy.

New Business

- Chairperson Smoker has asked all commission members to read through the Master Plan by next Thursday.

Old Business

- n/a

Adjourn

Ms. Keough made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

This meeting will be hosted by the Police Department