



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, June 4, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual meeting hosted by the Fire
Department

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 at the Town of Castle Rock Fire & Rescue Headquarters or Police Department.

Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Present 8 - Chairperson Janet Peterson, Kerstin Keough, Chrissy Williams, Jose Guerrero, Nate Marsh, Carl Smith, Steve Thayer, and Mike Wells

Not Present 1 - Vice Chair Dan Smoker

Attendance 4 - Norris Croom, Jack Cauley, Deborah Stanley, and Becky Hernandez

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2020-016](#) Public Safety Commission meeting minutes - Mar. 5, 2020

Attachments: [PSC Mar. 5, 2020 minutes](#)

Ms. Keough moved to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes. Ms. Williams seconded the motion; the motion carried

Yes: 8 - Chairperson Peterson, Keough, Williams, Guerrero, Marsh, Smith, Thayer, and Wells

Not Present: 1 - Vice Chair Smoker

Fire Department Report

[PS 2020-014](#) CRFD April Report

Attachments: [CRFD April Report](#)

- Chief Croom introduced himself to new members.
- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Fire Department's April report and the 2019 Annual Report prior to today's meeting.
- There have been no staff members who have contracted COVID. Four members were tested and results were negative.
 - Is there testing for staff? No. The antibody testing is too inconsistent and currently, there is not enough data. There is

- a PCR test for symptomatic staff members - Chief Croom.
- Has call volume gone up with COVID? Call volume has decreased the past few months. Residents are hesitant to go to a hospital right now. CRFD's call volume is down 10% and transports are down 20%. Castle Rock Adventist Hospital's numbers are significantly down as well.
- The department is now seeing an increase in mental health calls. Tri-County Health has not seen increasing numbers. Our numbers in the last month have increased, but our totals may be equal to the past.
- Seeing an increase in calls with patients who have significant issues because they have been avoiding doctor visits. "Don't hesitate going to the hospital if you are ill" -Chief Croom
- With the downturn in the economy, the department is more cognizant to potential arson calls.
- Initially, acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) was a challenge, but the department has since, had some success attaining needed supplies. The department has also come up with creative ways to decontaminate equipment to prolong supplies.
- What is the status of the 4th of July fireworks with the Stage 1 fire ban in place? The fireworks' show is still scheduled. The fireworks (viewable from all over town), will be ignited off the top of Santa Fe Quarry Butte allowing for social distancing -Chief Croom
 - Public firework displays are still allowed under Stage 1 restrictions.
 - The department has been doing additional mitigation work around the quarry in preparation for the show.
 - The Town is not required to follow Douglas County's fire restrictions, but usually do. We will continue to monitor conditions.
 - Town Council has requested the Star to stay lit until after the fireworks show.
- What is the status of this year's fair and rodeo? Douglas County oversees the rodeo event. Have heard it is moving forward with additional protocols in place -Chief Croom.
 - Is the Steer Run taking place this year? The Steer Run is a Town sponsored event. The Special Events team is still reviewing their options -Chief Croom.
- Chief Croom was asked about the Accreditation conference he attended in March. Conference went well. There was a lot of great information.
 - The pandemic has altered several of our due dates and timelines for re-accreditation requirements.
 - Our Annual Compliance report has now been pushed back to October.
- Have new construction permits decreased? There were 87 new residential permits issued in May. This is an increase from April, but a decrease from May of last year. Overall, percentage wise, permits are ahead of last year -Chief Croom.

- The Town's real estate market is still strong and robust -Commissioner Thayer.
- Town departments have been working with the Town Manager to reduce the general fund by 10 million dollars in anticipation of lower sales tax revenue.
 - March revenue was down 0.4%. April totals should be available next month. Overall, revenue is up 2% over last year.
 - Both Fire and Police are funded through the general fund.
 - The Fire Department cut 1.5 million dollars from its capital and operating budget.
 - The Town has implemented a hiring and pay freeze.
 - One million of the 1.5-million-dollar reduction from the Fire Department's budget comes from the postponement of the SCBA replacement program. The SCBA's are 10 years old and were scheduled to be replaced this year. We are extending their use until next year. If revenue returns, we can revisit the replacement program later this year.
 - The remaining funds will come from the reduction to line items like our training and uniform budget and station modifications.
 - Has morale suffered because of the wage freeze? Morale is good. Our staff recognizes that this is a better alternative to losing staff. Our employees who have been with the Town for a while, know the Town works hard to take care of its employees. We put people first and stuff later. External pressures such as exposure to COVID and bringing it home to their families have a greater effect on morale.

Police Department Report

[PS 2020-015](#) CRPD April Report

Attachments: [CRPD April Report](#)

- Chief Cauley introduced himself to new members.
- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Police Department's April report prior to today's meeting.
- In the month of May, the Police Department, along with the Fire Department, participated in numerous birthday parades around Castle Rock. With increasing call volume, the departments can no longer participate.
 - The Police Department is still participating in "walk-by parades" for senior facilities.
- Crimes statistics

- Overall crime is down 16%.
- Motor vehicle accidents are down 23%.
- Calls for service are starting to trend up; call volume is returning to normal.
- Seeing an increase in vehicle break ins. "Remember to lock your car" -Chief Cauley
- Tuesday's protest went well. Protest was very peaceful. Positive outcome.
 - The Police Department was ready for anything. Officers were ready to assist. The Fire Department was on hand to help support the Police Department.
 - One by One policing was key.
 - A positive culture and philosophy starts within an organization. We believe in treating people with empathy, much like you would a family member.
 - We take a de-escalation approach and pride ourselves with how we interact with the community. We work hard to earn the trust and respect of our community.
 - Were staff given any kind of guidance on how to handle aggressive protesters? Our officers are trained to handle themselves appropriately and interact with the community as they would any other time -Chief Cauley.
 - Sheriff Spurlock loaned the department his PIO for Tuesday's protest.
 - We have a well-trained and well-equipped department. Although the state only mandates a total of 24 hours of training per year, CRPD officers receive 100 hours of training.
 - The department has used body-worn cameras for several years.
 - Cameras are not in use during casual contact.
 - There are a number of automatic triggers that activates the cameras. If an officer turns on their sirens and lights, the camera will automatically turn on. If someone's camera is in use, others in the area will also activate.
 - Is footage from the cameras public record? A person would need to submit an open records request to view footage. For third party requests, the department might need to redact parts to protect citizen privacy -Chief Cauley.
- Budget savings in the Police Department include reductions to equipment purchases, training and not filling three vacancies.
 - The department has an officer, a dispatcher, and the PIO position vacant. The department might fill these positions later in the year, if funds are available.
 - Has morale suffered because of the wage freeze? Morale is good. Staff are understanding and resilient. Of more concern is, with the pandemic, staff are not taking time off. Along with

that, we have civil unrest and negative media attention for law enforcement -Chief Cauley.

- Has the department received any physical violence complaints? Very few, overwhelmingly no fault of the officer. The department is quick to correct, if required -Chief Cauley.
- How is the VA program with COVID restrictions? Contact is made virtually. The department is currently not using volunteers, only the full and part time staff member -Chief Cauley.
 - Are you seeing an increase in domestic violence calls? Some week's domestic violence calls are up and other weeks the volume is down. Might see some residual issues in the coming weeks as things start getting back to normal.
- Is the Citizens Academy cancelled for this year? Yes, the program was cancelled this year, but we hope to offer it next year -Chief Cauley.
- Is the department seeing members of the community getting impatient with Safer at Home guidelines? There were a lot of noncompliance calls in March, but it calmed down after a couple of weeks -Chief Cauley.

New Business

- Discussion on electing new commission officers.
 - Ms. Williams made a motion to table the selection until all members could physically meet in July. Ms. Keough seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Discussion about the July meeting. In the past, the meeting has been cancelled because of its proximity to the 4th of July holiday. Most members are available to attend this year's meeting. Decision was made to keep meeting date as planned.

Old Business

n/a

Commissioner Comments and Questions

- Ms. Peterson read a brief note from Ms. Martinez, a former Public Safety Commission member, who expressed her gratitude and thanks to the Public Safety Commission and the Fire and Police organizations.
- Several commission members expressed their thanks and pride in both the Police and Fire Department. The actions of both departments', fill our community with pride.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

**The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for
July 2, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the Police Department**