



Committee And Staff Reports – continued

G. Building Department/Public Works – Building Official Borysiewicz reported sewer lines continue to be inspected and repaired, Public Works had resealed the pickleball court, and they have been busy with garbage, landscape, and mangrove trimming violations.

H. City Secretary-Treasurer – Commissioner Vorick stated the Check Detail report and June Financial Statements were available for review; and the city is in good financial shape.

I. City Clerk – No report.

4. Unfinished Business

Fire/EMS Services

Mayor Sutton introduced Marathon/Islamorada Fire Chief William Wagner.

Chief Wagner thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak and said he would like to outline the services provided by the Marathon Fire/EMS Department. He said the two cities are viewed as one whole jurisdiction by the employees and everyone receives the same level of service. Station 14 at the airport has a ladder truck, two fire tanker trucks, and two fire rescue vehicles which are ambulances. One ambulance is used for inter-facility transfers so that one is always available for emergencies. These transfers are handled by part-time off duty staff so that the fire station is always fully staffed for emergencies. The station is staffed with four firefighters who are also certified paramedics or EMTs, as well as administrative staff that are ready to respond on all shifts. Chief Wagner stated there are also 35 volunteers who assist when needed and provide excellent support services. He provided a brief biography of himself. He said the department had a 5-9 ISO rating and they continue to work to improve which will result in reduced premiums for homeowners.

Commissioners and Chief Wagner discussed:

- The mutual aid agreement that benefits KCB, Marathon, and Monroe County.
- Chief Wagner offered to meet with any commissioner to discuss services provided and the associated costs. He said that Fire/EMS protection is probably the most costly municipal service provided to citizens.
- KCB has requested a written proposal from Marathon showing dollar amounts for future years, but it has not yet been provided. Marathon Council will discuss this issue at their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 13.
- This is a tough decision, but services should also be compared, not just dollars.
- Things may be said in negotiations to make a point. County dispatchers are unaware of mutual aid agreements when dispatching services. They call the closest available provider to respond. Politics are left out of decisions regarding public health and safety.
- Cost proposal by the county and the verbal offers from Marathon were compared. The County proposal is less than Marathon's last numbers, but the Marathon Council has yet to respond. All need to keep an open mind and evaluate all options for Fire/EMS service. The number and type of vehicles and staffing levels need to be considered.
- The County proposal includes that at the end of 5 years, KCB will need to contribute to vehicle replacement.
- Research is being gathered for starting our own department. So far this will be the most costly option. It should be reconsidered in about 4 years as costs will have increased or will be increasing in that time frame. Estimates for staffing our own department are about \$650,000. Equipment will also have to be purchased.
- Negotiations between the cities have been distasteful to some, but KCB has to consider all options and make the best decision for the citizens.

Unfinished Business – Fire/EMS Services - continued

- Marathon Council authorized their city manager to negotiate and KCB needs to hear directly from the Council. Maybe a joint meeting would be helpful. Commissioners would like a written proposal from Marathon to compare to the County. Marathon has not been responsive to requests for information.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for Monroe County and their willingness and openness in working on this issue.
- A meeting with Marathon may be better after the written proposal is received. The Marathon Council needs time to discuss this issue.
- Levels of service from the County and Marathon were discussed.
- If the city chooses the County, there will always be a heavy reliance on mutual aid from Marathon. The reverse is not true. Be sure to compare service levels.

Monroe County Deputy Chief Gary Boswell stated that if there is an emergency in Marathon, their vehicles and staff are deployed. The County does and will supply mutual aid if another emergency arises.

Commissioners agreed that there is some frustration with Marathon. They authorized Mayor Sutton to contact Marathon Mayor Ginger Snead and request this issue be on their agenda for their July 13 meeting and request a written proposal be provided by Thursday, July 14.

5. Items of Discussion/ApprovalOil Spill Information Update – Vice-Mayor Zahn

Vice-Mayor Zahn stated that forecasts for the oil spill continue to change. She said that a state loan program is available to business owners. This program provides bridge loans of up to \$25,000 interest free for up to twelve months. Monroe County businesses were approved to receive these loans. The phone number is 866-737-7232 or website is [Floridaoilhelp.com](http://Floridaoilhelp.com). Mayor Sutton said he attended a county-wide meeting with BP officials and the Coast Guard. At the current time, the oil is moving away from the Keys and the loop current. He said when he asked about purchasing booms to be prepared, they reiterated that booms were not appropriate for tar balls and purchases would not be reimbursed. At the meeting, BP and the Coast Guard stated they were prepared if the situation changed. Mayor Sutton will visit the command center in Miami and discuss preparedness to try to ensure the city will be protected. Lisa Watson, Marathon Emergency Management Director stated their city is hosting and coordinating a volunteer training session tomorrow. More training classes will be available next week.

6. City Administrator Items For Discussion/ApprovalUpdate on Stormwater Project

Mayor Sutton stated all six wells are completed and drilled to a depth of 120 feet. One structure, one crossover, and one retaining box have been installed. Construction is on schedule and should be completed on time.

Golf Course Lease

Mayor Sutton stated that Manager Daryl Rice said he was willing to agree to a one-year extension of the lease. The original lease provides for a two-year extension. The Mayor said that Mr. Rice also requested that the pro shop be closed on some days, such as Christmas. Commissioners agreed that Mr. Rice had done a good job with the course and the extension should be granted. Mayor Sutton stated he had asked Mr. Rice to submit in writing his commitment for another year and requested changes to the lease agreement.

7. Ordinances and Resolutions – None.

8. Commissioners' Reports or Comments

Commissioner Vorick suggested it may be time for the city to have our own Fire/EMS Department to provide the best return of services to our citizens for the cost being paid.

Commissioner DeNeale stated a revised spreadsheet on Fire/EMS had been received from Marathon, but he still had questions that have not been answered about administrative costs and the revenues included. He said he still disagreed with the calculations.

Mayor Sutton stated that he had asked Marathon to acknowledge in writing that there are no claims for additional payments for prior years.

Vice-Mayor Zahn stated she agreed that the city should continue to research starting our own department.

9. City Attorney Report – Thomas D. Wright – No report.

10. Approval of Warrant 0610 Expenses for the Month of June

**Motion** – Moved by Commissioner Vorick, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, to approve Warrant 0610 for the Month of June 2010 in the amount of \$268,654.40. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval.

11. Correspondence & Citizen Comments

City clerk reported two emails received from:

Eric Larsson and Joe Schmidt who both expressed support for the County to provide Fire/EMS services and that the station be located in KCB.

Citizen Comments - None

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Vickie L. Bollinger, City Clerk

Note: A mechanical recording has been made of the meeting of which these minutes are a part, and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk, as a public record.