

## **] PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE**

November 14, 2011

The Dispatch Committee meeting was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry.

**PRESENT: Committee Members: Steve Chasin, John Farrell, Linda German, John Velliquette, Ed Nolan, Steve Young, Lisa Whittemore, Lt. Tim Jones, Captain Doug Cardwell; Alternate Committee Member Brendan Burns; Town Manager David Caron.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

J. Farrell opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. J. Farrell outlined the events of tonight's meeting in that the Londonderry Police Department will be presenting a 20 minute video outlining the structure and operations of the department. The meeting will be adjourned from Moose Hill Council Chambers and the committee will do an on-site visit to the Londonderry Police Department Dispatch Center.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

J. Farrell explained that the idea of visiting the Derry Fire Department Dispatch Center was presented at the previous meeting and tabled for tonight to see if the committee is willing to do an on-site visit to the Derry Fire Department. He opened the topic up for discussion.

B. Burns stated that when visiting the Londonderry Fire Department we got a lot of good information on what works and what does not work and assumes that the same will hold true for the Londonderry Police Department. He feels that if we go to visit the Derry Fire Department, we will be getting a glorified sales pitch and that they will only outline the best that they have to offer since they may receive a substantial amount of money from the Town of Londonderry for dispatch services. He looked at the previous proposal and does not feel that it makes sense financially for Londonderry to outsource dispatch services to Derry. He complimented the Derry Fire Department as being a good organization and a good department and mentioned that Town Council meetings are not well attended but when the dispatch issue arose, the chambers were full and all were in disagreement with switching dispatch services to Derry and many signed a

petition against transferring service to Derry. He would like to see the issue taken out of discussion so that we do not continue to beat the issue to death.

E. Nolan countered by explaining that the committee needs to give the Town Council a complete report. He stated that all of us are open minded and have a level of intelligence to know when we are getting a sales pitch. He feels that we owe it to the town and to the council to completely investigate the issue and we should visit Derry Fire Dispatch. He believes that we should take the information learned from our visits to the Londonderry Police and Fire Departments and balance that against what we will learn from visiting the Derry Fire Department.

B. Burns agrees with doing the diligence but feels that there is nothing that we are going to learn from a visit to Derry that is not already in the previous proposal.

L. German explained that we learned a lot from visiting the Londonderry Dispatch Center and that several members of this panel asked many good questions and we found out what the Derry Dispatch can't do as well as what they can do versus our own facilities that are already in place. She said that we all took an oath of fairness, fairness to all input. She would rather side on visiting Derry to see what they have to offer and that no one can ever say that we were not fair regardless of what we come up with as a solution.

S. Young believes that we can gather information and learn about the Derry facility and feels that a trip to Derry Fire is worthwhile. He then asked if anyone on the committee has seen previous council meetings in regards to the fire dispatch issue and most have not but have read about it in the town newspaper. He recommended that everyone watch the previous meetings which are available at the library on disc. He then inquired if anyone had seen the Derry Town Council meeting in which dispatch services consolidation was discussed. He proposes that the meeting from Derry be projected and viewed at one of our future meetings so that we can get a better idea of Derry's interest on the issue of consolidation and gather as much information as we can.

L. Whittemore said that she was present at our council meeting and was effected by the number of citizens who attended the meeting and there interest in expressing opposition to a consolidation, however she has been swayed by other members of the committee about doing a complete and diligent examination of the issue and is willing to go to Derry and learn more about their service.

J. Farrell then asked for a consensus of whether or not the committee wants to go to Derry and explained that looking at all options was what was written in our charter as to what our duties are. The committee opted to visit the Derry Fire Dispatch and D. Caron would set up a time for us to do that prior to our next meeting.

E. Nolan was interested in having Capt. D. Cardwell explain the issue of equipment transfer. Capt. D. Cardwell explained that Londonderry uses a newer version of the fire dispatch software and assumes that Derry would incorporate that into their current system. J. Farrell stated that when he visited Derry it was his understanding that the software would enhance what Derry

already has and that Derry would look to add to it and Derry would eventually move everyone into more modern technology.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lt. T. Jones presented a 20 minute video outlining the functions and different sections of the Londonderry Police Department.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

L. Whittemore motioned to adjourn at 7:38 PM, seconded by L. German, Committee's vote 9-0-0.