

MINUTES

Metro Management Council

Wednesday, March 30th, 2022
3:30 PM – 5:20 PM
County Admin Building
415 N Dakota Ave

Members Present: Commissioner Gerald Beninga, Commissioner Dean Karsky, Council Member Rick Kiley, and Council Member Christine Erickson (via phone)

Attendees: David Bixler, Aimee Chase, Drew DeGroot, Justin Faber, Tyler Fettes, LeNora Giles, Tom Huber, Joe Kippley, Matt McAreavey, Scott McMahan, Mike Milstead, Carol Muller, Mattie Peck, Ona Reker, Jon Thum

1. Determination of Quorum and Approval of Agenda

Council Member Kiley acknowledged the presence of a quorum. No motion made

2. Public Input

Joe Kippley spoke and expressed his appreciation and desire to give positive feedback after receiving a tour of Metro Communications from Director McMahan and Technology Coordinator Tooley. Mr. Kippley shared “they’re doing their best with a pretty tough facility there. It was amazing to see the work that they do, but also its good to look forward to the future they’re going to have with the law enforcement training center a better facility.”

Lenora Giles, ASFCME Local 3516 Union President, asked the council take heartfelt consideration for the current COLA negotiations when in executive session later in the meeting, to help with retention and recruitment, to make us the best center and to continue to grow.

3. Approval of Minutes dated December 15, 2021

Motion made by Commissioner Beninga, seconded by Commissioner Karsky, to approve the minutes dated December 15, 2021, as presented. Yeas: Beninga, Karsky, Kiley, Erickson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

4. Directors Report

Director McMahan reported the agency has 4 vacant operator positions with 3 recent resignations, 2 of which plan to return to work as temp staff. In addition, the agency has 4 operators currently in training. Referencing recruitment struggles across the nation, McMahan shared agency strategic plan changes implemented to recruitment and training to proactively increase our number of hiring classes and speed up the hiring process for applicants.

McMahan updated the council on continued communication with vendors for the new PSAP. Due to availability of product, ordering of product may need to be moved up to ensure timely delivery and installation of product, to support occupancy in the new building. Budget continues to be monitored with potential increases in product, shipping, and installation costs.

McMahon reported on continued efforts to achieve a desirable work/life balance for staff. Significant efforts were invested over the last year in exploration of 12 hour shifts, with a recent survey of staff indicating a 50/50 split. With this in mind, 8 hour shifts will continue. Temp staff continue to provide significant relief to agency staff, and provided a total of 1,798 hours in dispatch operational support in 2021.

McMahon reported Motorola is no longer marketing our MCC7500 radio consoles and current software support will end in December 2026, and equipment maintenance in December 2028. Quotes for necessary equipment & software upgrades are pending for agency budget purposes, and grant and/or local dollar funding will be pursued.

McMahon reviewed 2021 Calls for service and call answer times, noting all types increased over 2020: Total Calls for Service 3.11%, law enforcement 1.66%, Fire 2.3% and EMS 10.07%. Year to date call stats were also presented.

5. Presentation of Financial Statements as of December, 2021

Business Manager Reker presented the financial statements for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021. She noted the statements continue to be presented in a combination of fund and government wide presentation, to include information that is helpful for the council to effectively view the financial health of the agency. The December financials, as presented, include audit related adjusting entries as the audit is complete. The agency remains in a strong financial position, in great part due to the support of the city and county. 911 surcharges fund over half of the agency expenditures, with the majority of the remaining support provided by the city and county. The agency added to cash in 2021, due in great part to staffing vacancies and stable insurance premiums. The agency completed their fiscal year within the approved budget, as amended in the December meeting; that amendment reflected awards of local dollar funding and related expenditures.

Motion made by Commissioner Beninga, seconded by Commissioner Karsky, to approve the financial statements for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021, as presented. Yeas: Beninga, Karsky, Kiley, Erickson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

6. Presentation of Financial Statements for months of February 28, 2022

Business Manager Reker presented the financial statements for the 2 months ending February 28, 2022. Reker reminded the council February reports do not reflect current year 911 surcharges as those funds are received locally 45 days following the month of service, with March generally the first month of local receipt each year. Likewise, expenditures in the first months of the year are minimal with just two months reporting. Several staffing vacancies have been filled and group health insurance remains stable in 2022 as it did in 2021. The agency remains in a strong financial position.

Motion made by Commissioner Beninga, seconded by Commissioner Karsky, to approve the financial statements for the 2 months ending February 28, 2022, as presented. Yeas: Beninga, Karsky, Kiley, Erickson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

7. Acceptance of Final Audited 2021 Financial Report

Business Manager Ona Reker reported the agency's 2021 financial audit is complete and has been reviewed and approved as prepared by our independent auditors, Eide Bailly and the South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit. She noted the agency's financial statements were found to fairly present the financial position of Metro, without modification. As has been reported since 2018, our auditors have issued a qualified opinion in regards to our decision to remove the reporting of GASB 75/OPEB (other poste employment benefits), with all other areas of the financial statements received an unmodified opinion.

Motion made by Commissioner Beninga, seconded by Commissioner Karsky, to approve the financial statements for the 12 months ending December 31, 2021, as presented. Yeas: Beninga, Karsky, Kiley, Erickson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

8. Presentation of 2023 Budget

Director Scott McMahon presented the 2023 proposed budget. He reported the proposed budget does not include a request for additional FTEs in 2023 and highlighted a decrease in City/County support from 15% in 2022 to 8% in 2023.

The council discussed the presented budget, with Director McMahon confirming no action requested at this meeting and instead planning to request action at the April 27th meeting.

9. Executive Session for the purposes of and as authorized by SDCL § 1-25-2 (1), (3), and (4)

Commissioner Karsky proposed a recess at 4:31pm. The Council returned from recess at 4:40pm.

Motion by Commissioner Karsky, seconded by Commissioner Beninga to move into executive session for purposes of as authorized by SDCL § 1-25-2 (1), (3), and (4). 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Council entered into the Executive session at 4:42pm. Council Member Kiley returned the Council to Open meeting at 5:20pm.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Karsky, seconded by Commissioner Beninga to adjourn the meeting at 5:20pm. Yeas: Beninga, Karsky, Kiley, Erickson. Nays: none. Motion carried.