

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
April 14, 2015

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday April 13, 2015 after Finance Committee with these members present:

Bill Cost Jr.
Jeff Rath
Jeremy Blake

Ryan Bubb
Alex Rolletta

We wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 15-32** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service of the City of Newark, Ohio to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the off-site disposal of bio solids from Newark's Wastewater Treatment Plant was considered.

Roger Loomis- this is a contract that we bid out every couple of years this is just authorization for us to advertise for bids and then enter into contract.

Motion Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. **Resolution 15-34** a resolution authorizing and directing the director of public service of the City of Newark, Ohio to advertise for bids and enter into contract, subject to the appropriation of funds, for the Willrich and Yorkshire Drive waterline project was considered.

Roger Loomis- this again authorization for the Service Director to advertise for bids for this project. The design work is about 90% complete then we will advertise for bids.

Motion Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. **Resolution No. 15-36** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to accept bids and sell certain surplus personal property now owned by the City of

Newark, Ohio, and declaring that such property is no longer needed for any municipal purpose was considered.

Director Rhodes- we are going to have public auction on June 6th at the Service Complex. We have 141 vehicles potentially for this sale. I would like to publicly thank Lew Shumaker for her work on this.

Motion Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rolletta

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. **Resolution No. 15-38** authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Newark to prepare and submit an application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for the 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program to partially fund the Riverview Bike Trail – Phase 1 project was considered.

Brian Morehead- late last year the County Planning Commission approached us with some interest in helping to extend the bike path system in the City. Basically the section that we are talking about here would be from the Ohio St Bridge over the North Fork Licking River to connect that existing path that is on the east side of the bridge back to the west to South Second St around the area of the bridge there. The county has some funding available as the match for the project and they asked the city if they would be willing to serve as the sponsor of the project to apply for ODOT's Transportation Alternatives Program funds. We sent in a letter of interest in January and they responded back to us earlier this month and said that they would like for us to fill put a full application. This piece of legislation before you would be part of that application for the funding. It doesn't guarantee that we will get it but it puts in the much higher regard. It is a competitive situation for the funds, it is state wide. If we were funded they would not likely be available until 2018 or 2019 depending on where it is in their budget. That would work well with us because we are trying to coordinate this project with two other city projects; the rehabilitation of the Ohio Street Bridge. With the bridge project we would try to incorporate the reconfiguration of the sidewalk or a bike lane on top of the bridge and the other is a project to raise the levies down in the south end to provide additional flood protection that would allow several of the properties north of the levy to be taken out of the flood plain. If we get funded I would be happy to come back and discuss the project with a power point in more detail.

Mr. Blake- I think this is exciting Brian. If ODOT does give us funding you said in 2018-2019 and mentioned the levy project, what would be the time line for raising the levies?

Brian Morehead- if we were going to do that it would be with storm water funds most likely. Right now it is a preliminary design phase and we are ready to submit that to the Core for their comments. I would say within the next 6-8 months we could have a little clearer view on when that may happen.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second Mr. Rolletta
Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

5. **Resolution No. 15-33** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to enter into an agreement with specialized legal counsel for the purpose of developing and implementing a program of Tax Increment Financing for the River Trails Development and surrounding areas was concerned.

Director Rhodes- last week Council voted to re-zone this property to allow for the development of 44 more units. Part of my negotiations with the developer was a one-time fee of \$44,000.00 or the creation of a TIF. Our intent here is to TIF the area which will take a little bit of time and energy working with a few entities but we believe that we have revenue from this area for about the next 20 years maybe 30 years depending on how it is written. Probably \$25,000-30,000.00 per year. My intent is not to borrow a bunch of money against that but to let it go into that account that is currently open for the developments that are going on there for road improvements.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second Mr. Cost

Mr. Rath- could you explain this in a little bit of detail on how a TIF works?

Director Rhodes- there is a certain amount of taxes that are paid on a property. What a TIF does is take a portion of those taxes and reallocate them to a certain project or area. So we will receive certain entities share of those taxes that will go into a coffer for road improvements.

Mr. Rath- do any of those entities have any say as to whether they participate?

Director Rhodes- the School Board does

Mr. Rath- and in this case it would be Granville schools

Director Rhodes- yes. Your choice here really is accept a one-time payment of \$44,000.00 or travel done this TIF road. When we negotiated this Councilman Marmie asked that we split this portion of the negotiation. The reason that we propose that we move forward with the TIF is because we feel that area is in desperate need of road improvements and we believe that this is a mechanism that is allowable by law that allows cities to accrue dollars for road improvements.

Mr. Rath- if we have full participation of the TIF what would our annual income be roughly?

Director Rhodes- 25,000-30,000.00 per year roughly.

Mr. Rath- what if Granville doesn't participate?

Director Rhodes- \$20,000.00 a year

Mr. Rath- I know we have lost on TIFs in the past, will we lose on this?

Director Rhodes- only if we go and borrow bunch of money against the income stream and the development could go belly up

Mr. Cost- what kind of things can those funds be used for?

Director Rhodes- road improvements

Mr. Blake- so Council approves this resolution then at that point then do you enter into discussion with the school district? What are the steps in ultimately having this?

Director Rhodes- if this passes through committee and Council then I will get with Konnie Klema, the developers attorney and the TIF attorney then the discussions begin. How we came up with the \$44,000.00 was roughly \$1,000.00 per unit which is what we thought was fair for condo styles. That is roughly the cost to get a TIF if we go with it. If Council says no they don't like the idea of the TIF then we would take a one-time fee that would be deposited with the other funds. This only applies to commercial developments. We have another development coming up, there is the rezoning we did of the 10 acres on the corner and if this is successful then we would probably look to TIF that area too for roadway improvements.

Mr. Blake- this will be just with the new housing development.

Director Rhodes- that is correct and here is the difference too. The first 60 plus units because that area was already rezoned I wasn't able to capture any in terms of a development fee or an impact fee so as part of our agreement I am going to TIF all 100 units, that is how we are going to generate so many dollars.

Mr. Rath- you mentioned another commercial development going on further east, what is that?

Director Rhodes-right around the corner Council rezoned that area, it is right there on the bend. There are going to have a total of 60 units. The building plans have not been given to the city for review yet. We looked at those 10 acres, it is already zoned, and Council rezoned it so they can build multi-family units but we capped it. We went back to the density so they can only build 60 units. The 10 acres being discussed is on Cherry Valley Rd. With that development also if we would intend to TIF that too if Council is amendable to it than we would follow the same pattern of not spending it but accruing it and using it for road improvements or if Council is not in favor of that then we would take a one-time fee off of that too.

Mr. Cost- so what you are saying is that you would TIF all of this development even the first part?

Director Rhodes- yes that was the agreement with the developer.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. AFSCME/FOP joint presentation regarding the 911 Service Center/Communication Operators issue.

Missy Schmidt & Leslie Redman gave a power point presentation about the Police Department.

- First was shown the staff and their years of service
- Second a recording of an actual call that was taken was played
- Third statistics were give and the various responsibilities of a Communication Operators was discussed
- Fourth the steps were discussed when a call is placed to 911
- The effects the legislation on the agenda would have on the citizens of Newark if adopted
- The effects the legislation on the agenda would have on the employees of the City of Newark if adopted
- The procedures used and currently in place within the day to day operation were discussed
- The technology used within the department as well as the technology upgrades including the estimated costs associated for such upgrades.
- It was requested that the legislation being considered for a 911 merger be tabled so that an in depth analysis can be done.

Dennis, 400 Washington St Apt 410- I am very concerned with all of this and the fact that City Council brought it up at all. Here is the problem when I came to the city in 2000 roads were getting fixed but that is the same condition you are in for 2015 so nothing has changed. The next thing that happened was the inability of the city to find a snow plow and salt for the streets. I am sure we all remember this last snow storm we had and for the first time since I moved to Newark there were snow plows out but unfortunately the only streets that got plowed were East Main St and West Main St. Next the City decided to start charging for the Fire Department. What is the City of Newark doing for the citizens of Newark, apparently very little? Now all of the sudden there is a big move to cancel and destroy the Police Department which has functioned fairly well up until now. My question is this, is City Council going to again refuse to be concerned about the needs of the citizens and only try to make themselves look like they are doing something or is there actually going to be an effort made to say something that is worthwhile and is passed? My big concern about this is that this tail of woe continues to go on. You went to the citizens asking for a levy to pave the streets and they didn't give it to you, did you ever ask why? The levies that have gotten passed by the citizens get stiffened off and then instead of using it for what it is supposed to be used for it is used for many other things. I understand that you have a city to run and I understand that you have to make tough decisions but come on let's start doing something for the citizens. Is this a quality improvement for the citizens of Newark? I suspect not. I will conclude with what does the City of Newark do for the average

citizen?

Paul Davis, President of the Newark FOP- I would like to talk about the timing of this. We weren't told anything about this until a few days before they made their first presentation. It struck us as odd because no one came down to see what we did, no one came down looking for information, and they did nothing. They put on this presentation without ever talking to anybody to see actually what we did and that concerned me first of all because there are 69 officers in the FOP that have to deal with this stuff all of the time. The second thing, when he gave his presentation without talking to us a lot of the things weren't correct as you saw today things were different than what he actually brought up the first time. He probably would have had better information if he actually would have talked to us and I am not sure why he didn't come here and talk to us. What is the rush? Why are they bringing it here this quickly? Have they done any kind of study to see what this is going to do to the department and how it is going to affect each of the people of the city? That has not been done up to this point and I think that it is important that before you guys make a decision on that you know all of the facts. It would be cost effective because it is definitely going to affect a lot of people here in the city. They talked a lot about we have these tax levies. When we went out and asked them to pass this we guaranteed them a lot of services and now we are going to take some of these services away. They are paying a lot of extra money for Police and Fire and it is just Police and Fire so why are we trying to taking some of the police and fire and move it somewhere else? You could even tell by some of their stuff we aren't going to save any money. One of the things that was a scare tactic that I heard when they first talked about this that we are going to need 1 million dollars to bring the technology up to where it needs to be. 1 million dollars that is pretty scary. They never said each of the costs of what we needed a million dollars for. We showed you right away for \$160,000.00 we can get us real close to what the 911 center does. I don't know where the other \$850,000.00 that he is talking about and I hope that he would come up and explain himself more. That information is more of a scare tactic unless you can prove it or tell me exactly where that is coming from. Our dispatchers are very important. As you can see by their presentation that there are only 8 of them but they do the work of 12-13 people. They are unbelievable people, they have our lives in their hands every day and I think that we need to keep them there.

Dave Arndt, Officer Coordinator for NPD- the only thing that I am going to bring up tonight is in the resolution it gives permission to the city administration to negotiate and enter into contract with the County. I am only asking you guys to slow down not let them enter into contract, make them bring the information and facts back to Council for a vote from everyone. During the first presentation we saw nice pictures of generators but that doesn't answer any questions. No questions have been asked no questions have been answered. With that I just ask that you slow down and not let them enter into an agreement with the county.

Mark, Vice President of the FOP Lodge 127 of Licking County- the whole thing about this is that it is supposed to save time and be more efficient in dispatch between 911 and the agency. That cannot be any further from the truth and I will tell you as of yesterday. I live in the county; I was sitting in my driveway and see a transformer on fire

on St Rt 586. I call 911 at 7:54 P.M. I said it was on 586, they know it is in Licking County, he said we have a lot of calls if you get any more information let us know. I have a take home car so I drove down to at least divert a little bit of traffic because there is a line that runs across the state route. I called the dispatcher back and said I had an address for them. It is a shared driveway with two addresses. I said do you want me to shut the road down? She said no I don't have the authority to tell you to do that we will send somebody for traffic control. The Fire Department shows up, there is nobody else there but one truck so I said I would go down the street and block traffic so you guys can take care of this. The second call that I placed to 911 was at 7:58 P.M. At 8:09 I had not heard one dispatched unit from the Sherriff's Department so I called the dispatcher and asked where they were at and if they were coming. The dispatcher stated they didn't know what I was talking about. I stated there is a pole on fire and the Fire Department is here. Dispatcher: was it an injury cash, Dave: no, they just need traffic control and someone to shut the road down. She had no clue and this was 11 minutes later.

Dave McElfresh, President of IFF Local 109- I here to speak in the matter of public safety. I also rise in solidarity with the brothers and sisters of AFSCME and FOP in opposing moving the police dispatchers to the county. I continue to have great concern for the services we outsource to the county which when then lose local control but still have to pay the bill. We seem to simply transfer the tax burden from the city to the county but loose our control and ability to manage for the best interest of our citizens, the citizens of Newark and our employees. Obviously I have great concern of the loss of more employees because when it comes to safety less is not more. Everyone may be aware; it has been mentioned, several years ago the county took over fire and EMS 911 dispatching. I in no way want to criticize the wonderful important work of our current county 911 dispatchers do or any of the dispatchers at the Sherriff's Office either. This is not about their work but there certainly have been and continue to be issues many related to safety of our members and the citizens we serve. Not only because they are no longer at the fire station where they used to be but because they are now administered by the county this added another level of administration where it is no longer as simple as contacting a city dispatcher or management to resolve a simply issue as they are no longer city employees. There is an additional administrative process to go through to change something that could be a simply matter to change that could be a matter of life or death for our citizens, firefighters or in this case the police. The current system in our Police Department works with the only interaction you heard between our police officers and their dispatchers that help keep them safe to efficiently and effectively serve the citizens of Newark. I believe more careful consideration should be given before any changes are made and consideration should be first and foremost about the safety of the citizens of Newark and additionally must consider the impact to the current city employees providing this important service to our community.

Mr. Guthrie- something that has really bothered me on this particular issue and I have had a couple of positive email exchanges with the Safety Director about this, I think that it is crucial especially before Council acts in any significant degree on this that we give the officers on the street the opportunity to state their feelings without any fear of retribution what so ever on this issue. This to me is a safety issue. All of you know I

complained about this coming to the Service Committee, I believe that it belongs in the Safety Committee but it is here. It is a safety issue when it comes to our citizens when it comes to our police officers who are out there dealing with these calls as they are coming in. It is crucial that we focus on this as a safety issue and I don't know how as a City Council or as an Administration that we can make a sound judgement without allowing the officers who are handling these calls on a daily basis to give their two cents worth whether that be pro or con on how their function and safety as a law enforcement officer in the City of Newark could be impacted one way or the other.

Mark Frasier, 20 West North St- asked the communication operators what technology they need and if there was anything that could improve and what grants they were looking for. There was talk about implementing new car technology to improve on site call response so officers could be better aware of what is going on in current situations.

Missy Schmidt- sir, unfortunately I can't answer that I am a dispatcher I have nothing to do with technology but I can tell you that CAD (computer aid dispatch) has been a dream of ours. Is that something that would be possible in the upgrade? Maybe, I don't know I am not in the position with our administration to handle that. Does what we have now work? Yes.

Mark Frasier- could it work better?

Missy Schmidt- absolutely, it could work but it is a situation where with the money we have to spend is the technology way more important than our jobs?

Mark Frasier- you are doing multiple jobs, doing a lot of multi-tasking, how do you balance all of that work load?

Missy Schmidt- we're good.

Mark Frasier- with outdated technology, with 8 people, you have two people on duty at a time?

Mr. Cost- if you could explain your schedule. A number of us had the privilege of going and seeing these folks working and we went and saw the county folks as well so we could get a better understanding of how this is being done. If you could explain how your staff is scheduled I would appreciate that.

Missy Schmidt- we are on duty 7 days a week. Our schedule is comprised of 4 shifts. 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.; 12:00 P.M.-10:00P.M.; 5:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M.; 10:00 P.M.-8:00 A.M. With the exception of the 12:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. shift we follow the same hours as our police officers. So in essence a dispatcher is assigned to a team of Patrol Officers. Between 3:00 A.M.-7:30 A.M. there is one dispatcher on duty to handle the calls for the City of Newark. That is considered our down time, when the calls aren't considered as numerous. During that time period we usually average 5-10 calls if that.

7. **Resolution No. 15-35** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service and the Director of Public Safety to negotiate and enter into contract with the Licking County Board of Commissioners and Licking County Emergency Management Agency, subject to the appropriation of funds, for the provision of emergency 9-1-1 communications services on behalf of the City of Newark, Division of Police was considered.

Director Spurgeon- two weeks ago we came to this chamber and I laid out a presentation that I really wanted you to see what I have been seeing for the last four years. I am concerned that we are not effectively supporting our people and effectively doing our dispatch services. One thing that I will say again is that we great people doing great things but what I wanted to do is a free flow of information. Go take a tour, ask the questions. I am hoping you heard some of the things tonight that you heard during the tours. I also wanted you to see what was going on at the county 911 center. We are doing great things. With your enhanced support I believe that we can do it more effectively and more efficiently. The piece before you asks permission to go negotiate and enter into agreement with our friends at the county.

Ms. Hall- I am not on the committee but I just have a question. This will come back to Council for a vote.

Mr. Cost- the way the legislation is written we are granting permission to negotiate and enter into contract.

Lew Shumaker, President of AFSCME Local 2963- I have a concern that two weeks ago we were all here in this room and a presentation was given by Mr. Spurgeon and several people from the county. I believe he was directly asked what the goal was to move forward and there was none yet within two weeks we had to come together and honestly this presentation took a lot of time and you all were invited to come down. We saw several of your faces; you saw how the system works. I have to ask what is the hurry? I don't want to sound mean or nasty but I have to ask does he work for the county or does he work for the city because what I heard here tonight was they are doing good things, we do good things too and we want an opportunity to fix it. We want to bring those 911 call takers back here. They have already said they would train for it. Several of them worked in the City of Heath where they did that exact thing. If you didn't come down and experience it for yourself you need to. These people are like little machines putting those things into slots they don't even have to look they know where that stuff is. Technology- great. I would like a bigger diamond ring can I afford it or do I really need it, no I think this one will do it has served me well and that is what is serving these people very well too. The citizens are being served, the public trust is there. There is so much knowledge here, 118 years' worth of knowledge here. Don't waste it by giving it to the county. We have found out in history that the ballpark figure they throw out there is just great because it looks so good and then with the experience with the Health Department we found out they aren't getting the service. They don't tell you, nobody polices the contracts that you put out there. The 911 contract with the county says there is to be a dedicated assigned person to Newark City Fire only. Per their email to us, their public records email to us there is none. You are not even policing your own

contracts. Step back and let's take a look at this as a group. We are all willing so we don't know why the city is not willing. We have open minds. We may not always agree but we have open minds and we are willing to see what we can do to bring us to technology. We found out that the CAD system computers aren't even in the cruisers because the technology doesn't work together. So they can stand up here and tell you all of this good juicy stuff but when you see facts it is not happening.

Mr. Bubb- a question for Mr. Spurgeon, just from a cost angle right now what is your hope if you were to negotiate into a contract what kind of cost savings would be your hope?

Director Spurgeon- my hope is that we could save just north of \$100,000.00

Mr. Bubb- per year?

Director Spurgeon- yes

Mr. Bubb- can I ask a question of Mr. Grady? Would you be nice enough to speak to the Tiburon systems in the cruisers and compatibility?

Mr. Cost- would you introduce yourself first

Shawn Grady, Licking County Emergency Management Director- I am actually the wrong guy to answer that question you'd have to ask the Sherriff's office.

Mr. Bubb- addressed his question to Kevin Miller, Sherriff's Office; I had a question about the Tiburon system and the compatibility with the cruiser that was brought up earlier. Could you speak to that?

Kevin Miller- how it works is we bought all new computer systems and new RMS and the CAD and the Tiburon work hand in hand with it. It's just not installed until the fall that is our deadline. It is all a process. We opened the center up a year ago and it is a continuing progression.

Mr. Bubb- so your hope is by the fall?

Kevin Miller- yes

Director Spurgeon- I believe my friend Lew asked me a question and I would like to address that. What was the plan, why did we roll this out? You and I are friends we go a long way back. The plan was for you folks to go tour both of these facilities and see what I have been observing for the last four years. After you have asked all your questions there has been much discussion on allowing folks to speak their mind. There were many of our brave providers here two weeks ago and there are many here tonight. I have never once appeared on one of tours and I have never once told anyone not to speak their mind. On the contrary people have said what I have said is inaccurate and that's fine, I respect everybody's opinion. But the plan is to put CAD systems in our dispatch, put a records management system where we can do our operations effectively and efficiently. We have one of two ways to go, we can collaborate with the county and experience reduced costs or we can try to find the

funding and do it in house. That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. Cost- we have heard many different figures on what you would expect the upgrade in technology cost the city if we were to do it ourselves. We have heard 1 million dollars and north of 1 million dollars and then there was talk about upgrades that would cost \$160,000.00. I don't know a great deal about this other than what I had the honor to see when I went on my tour but there has to be some explanation about that gap as to those two numbers that maybe you could shed some light on.

Director Spurgeon- I can, thank you for asking. One of the benefits of this discussion was I was asked what do you think it is going to cost to upgrade that and I said north of a million dollars. We have discussed this with the Chiefs and Captains for a long time and I was always under the advisement that you need a million to a million and a half dollars. After the last meeting I got with Chief Connell and said we have to validate that. I am not just going to go up and throw out a number of it's not real. Show me that document. I asked the Service Director, the Chief of Police and two of his four Captains did you hear that same number. Yes we heard it too. We now believe that it was part of discussions with our previous Chief as opposed to a document. I said if you don't have a document then put something to writing. I want to thank Mr. Guthrie; I put out an email and stated that I wanted to answer all of your questions. If you want something specific we will put it together. I want to know what those costs are. I want to thank Chief Connell, Captain Baum and Captain Haren, they all got together and put a number together that was 300,000-500,000.00 for a CAD system and another 160,000.00 for the RMS system, associated costs I can't anticipate and that is if our computers displays would be able to use the technology. I asked Chief Connell do you know that, we don't know that. So I can say tonight that we validated the number. Somewhere around 300,000 and 660,000.00 and a wild card being the computers.

Mr. Rath- what exactly will they be able to do with the upgraded system that they are not able to do now.

Director Spurgeon- computer aided dispatch (CAD) we use a system now that is labor intensive. If you have taken the tours you can't help notice how we are not supporting our people. There are much more effective ways of doing what they do. You heard testimony that they are juggling a lot of balls at once. This I believe presents an opportunity for human error and I am not saying our people have or would but it gives me a little bit of pause. I look out there at what the technology is. I have seen what the county has been doing for the past three years and they are building us out. Computer aided dispatch takes away the writing it down on a card system putting into a slot; it is up on the computer screen. The record management system, all of the wonderful things on the slide, we can track The testimony that I

gave two weeks ago was crime statistics. Tell me who did what and where. There was testimony tonight about what was going on in the fire department. I am not here to say anything is perfect but we are light years ahead of where we were pre 1999 in the Fire/EMS. We know what emergencies are where and what time of the day and so on. The other thing is getting this information to the service level. Somebody in Heath goes to an incident and the person says the next police officer that shows up here I am going to kill them. If you don't get that exchanged hand to hand, mouth to mouth as it should cross agencies the next officer has no way of knowing what went on there. With the RMS system that comes up on a screen about a threat being given there last night and proceed with caution and that is what I believe we can do with the county. RMS system that we push it out to the ground level and you have heard our friends in the county say they are going to be there.

Mr. Cost- I have a couple of questions that have come to me and I have not been sure how to answer them. One of them is if someone calls in for a non-emergency police number as things stand now how that is handled and then if someone calls in for a non-emergency police number after this change. The second step of that I have been asked is if these folks are the only people in the Police Department 24 hours a day inside that office area, what would we do to be able to man the lobby? Would those doors still be open? Would there still be a way for someone to come in in the middle of the night that needed help or dealt with in the lobby of the Police Department?

Director Spurgeon- so on the first question, who is going to answer the phone? The dispatchers for the county. We will route the call to a phone. The issue of letting people in and out of the building. Technology. Let me give you an example. In the Division of Fire and EMS. We have it manned all of the time but many times we are out on a run. So if someone pulls up and there is no one there what am I to do? You pick up the handset and it goes right to a dispatcher. There was not one bullet point in the presentation that I did not see that we could do as well or better collaborating with the county. I am unaware of this being something that is going to adversely affect us. I have not seen that and I have watched very carefully.

Mr. Cost- I don't want to speak for anyone up here but from my point of view the first two issues we have to deal with are the safety of our citizens and the safety of our officers. After we have gotten past that I think it is worth discussing financial savings and it is worth discussing jobs that are filled right now by the city. I think the first two issues are indeed safety and I think that the first two things that are on our minds as the initial priority as a comparison of safety of what we have now and what we would have with the new system.

Director Spurgeon- the new system eliminates the redundancy. I have said publicly and the paper has quoted me, I am not a fan of the call goes here and gets pushed put over there. Having the call taker in the room with everybody else where they can turn around and go hey that kind of thing and it goes in a CAD system instead on a card. It lights up until you do something with it. I believe it enhances safety for the citizens. I have already testified with Mr. Rath, getting that pre contact information to our officers I believe enhances their safety. The other thing that pains me is I watch how we over work our officers. Information comes in, your address, the type of call, time dispatched, time leaving time arriving, that is entered point of contact. With the CAD system and RMS we push it out to them. We don't ask them to have this redundancy of putting something into their laptop that somebody has already put into a laptop. I do believe it meets both those concerns.

Mr. Rath- I know that the dispatchers currently monitor the holding rooms for both the safety of the officer and of the person being detained. Without the dispatchers in the Police Department do we lose the functionality of the interview room and the ability of one of our officers to bring someone back there to be interviewed?

Director Spurgeon- absolutely not. Our dispatchers are 50 feet and two doors away from those rooms right now. We monitor those with cameras and that is the same thing that we would be doing.

Mr. Rath- so that will continue to be monitored but from the Sherriff's office

Director Spurgeon- it is still what we are doing but we are consolidating how we do it.

Mr. Bubb- asked the Chief what his thought were about the piece of legislation in front of them.

Interim Chief Connell- I am torn. It is no argument that I look out and I have 8 dispatchers that have kept our dispatch center afloat single handedly. As I said two weeks ago our technology is the same as we had for the most part as when I was hired as an officer in 1990. It is way behind the curve. We are not just a little behind the curve we are way behind the curve. The CAD system has been in a lot of central Ohio departments for 20 years now and we are not there. How we get there is not for me to decide. I do take it to heart because these are 8 people that I have worked with for 24 years. It is a hard decision to make.

Mr. Bubb- asked Mr. Grady if he could reiterate what he spoke to at the last committee meeting. There is obviously a human side to this tonight with jobs affected. If this merger, transition were to happen how many dispatchers would the county look at hiring?

Mr. Grady- that would actually come under the Sherriff's office as well since it is law enforcement but the number that they are projecting at this point is 6.

Mr. Rath- I don't know who is going to answer this but you guys made the statement that I think you said only one or two dispatchers would a desire to go over to the county. My question is what is up with the other 6 or 7? Why don't you want to go to the county to continue to do the same work that you are doing now?

Lew Shumaker- there is several reasons why they aren't interested in going over there. One thing that we have been told is that there actually are no vacancies. This is not saying we are going to take you guys, we think you are fantastic and we need you to get Newark through this. We need your knowledge, your knowledge base, and your interaction with the officers. They are not telling these people that. What they are being told is or what we have been told actually is that they will have to apply at the Sherriff's office just like anybody in this audience would. There is no assuming of these employees that is the first issue; the second issue is the county is under a completely different contract than we are under. Their raises are kind of similar, they 20% into their insurance and they don't have PERS pick up. They would have to start over as new employees. You have people who have been here for 23, 25 and 15 years and they are going to be at the bottom of the barrel. So let's just throw this out there say they did hire 6 people and said you guys are great we are going to take you then 3 months down the road they can't afford them anymore. Who do you think is going, these dispatchers or theirs? Would you go over there and lose 25 years of seniority, I sure wouldn't. I would like a commitment from Safety Director Spurgeon that any of these officers that are here or would like to come Monday are free to give their opinion as to how they are personally going to be affected. What is going to happen to them when they are out there and they lose these people? These people all work as a team and you are going to take a team and cut their arm off. You heard Missy say they work as a team they have these people scheduled with a team of officers.

Mr. Rath- I have heard that there is going to be positions there, there are no positions now but they are creating positions and adding on work force.

Lew Shumaker- where is the promise is it in writing somewhere?

Mr. Rath- I haven't seen a contract, I don't know

Lew Shumaker- that's the problem. None of us have seen what they are going to negotiate.

Mr. Rath- but they are also assuming that there isn't going to be anything and they are also saying they don't want to go. My question was directed to the dispatchers, why don't you want to go? If there are no jobs there then obviously they don't want to go because there are no jobs to go to I understand that but if there are jobs available of course they have to apply because that is standard operating procedures for a government agency. They can't pull strings for anybody. If there is an

opportunity to go over there and there are jobs available would you or would you not want to make that move and why?

Lew Shumaker- I think that I answered that. I am the Union Representative I think that I answered that to you. If you have any other questions I will be happy to answer them.

Mr. Blake- in the power point presentation it said that Ashley City went ahead and developed a regional dispatch center and that goes along with the comments were from Director Spurgeon and Director Grady. Could Director Grady come forward and talk a little bit about what the goal is to reach regional dispatch center for Licking County and are there conversations with other jurisdictions to join into yours? Depending on what Newark does, what is the plan to get other jurisdictions into the regional center?

Mr. Grady- we already have all of the fire districts within the county currently in the regional level so the only thing left to do is to bring in the law enforcement dispatching if that is what is decided by those individual jurisdictions. It is a build it and they will come type of mentality. It has been built and we are constantly working on improving it and that is both on our side and the Sherriff's side. There have been a few other jurisdictions that have expressed interest and those negotiations will go forward.

Mr. Blake- here in Licking County other jurisdictions have expressed interest?

Mr. Grady- yes

Mr. Cost- as it stands right now you are not serving those other jurisdictions?

Mr. Grady- all of the fire jurisdiction are currently in the 911 center so the only ones left are ones that have law enforcement like Granville, Utica, Johnstown, Newark. We transfer those calls back

Mr. Cost- the Sherriff's Department came on board with you when?

Mr. Grady- April of this past year, it was before I got here

Mr. Cost- what is your assessment or view of how that has gone

Mr. Grady- you have to realize my measuring stick is for the most part since I have been here because prior to that I was in Massachusetts. I think that we are way ahead of the curve. The partnership that we have been able to build between ourselves and the Sherriff's office has been phenomenal since I have been here.

Mr. Cost- do you have station? Do you have room for the expansion? Are there plans to expand to hire additional dispatchers?

Mr. Grady- it all depends on call volume, if the call volume is there. If this deal would go to the point where Newark is coming on board then the call volume is projected to be there to hire up to 6 dispatchers on the Sherriff's side. Nothing is going to change on the fire side. We are going to continue to do exactly what we were doing

last week. Hiring dispatchers within the 911 center on our side is all based on that volume.

Mr. Cost- can I also assume that if you are going to hire dispatchers there surely has to be some sort of requirements and/or training for them to come on board. Wouldn't there be a tendency to look at people who have that experience and have that background and at day one are ready to sit down and go as opposed to someone who doesn't have any kind of background in this?

Mr. Grady- yes, you are looking at a learning curve before they can operate by themselves of up to 6 months if they were coming in without any 911 experience at all. Bringing someone in with 911 experiences shortens that curve quite a bit.

Mr. Cost- what would the requirements be to be hired?

Mr. Grady- I would have to turn that over to the Sherriff's Department because their requirements are a little different than ours.

Kevin Miller- they take a multi task test then they go through the interview process. Prior experience always sets you above.

Mr. Cost- is there any certain level of education or experience requirement?

Kevin Miller- it would be the score off of the multi-tasking test and that is for any dispatcher whether you are fire or law enforcement. The training is the same for everybody also.

Mr. Bubb- first I will offer a few more comments then I will entertain a motion. First is safety. The Chief said tonight we are behind the curve on technology and that is a fear for me. I look at the cost, if you go back 5 or 6 months now to balance a General Fund budget it's no secret we took two insurance premium holidays, that's how it was balanced. If not there would have been layoffs. Keep in mind as this Council body sits up here keep in mind that the administration has the authority to layoff, it doesn't come through Council and we are not going to have those insurance premium holidays so we have to start looking for savings. I appreciate you guys looking at that because we have to. It is very tight. Not only that but with the capital improvements that would be needed for that 300,000-600,000 that is a fear also where that is coming from because that takes away from other capital improvements. There is a human side to it. I don't think that any of us sitting up here tonight, this is our favorite legislation to discuss. There are many great people affected here. The fact that Mr. Grady said that 6 jobs could be offered along with the collective bargaining process if it occurs with bumping there are options now so that makes me feel better in entertaining a motion to pass this on to full Council.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to pass Resolution 15-35 on to full Council, second by Mr. Rath

Mr. Rolletta- I would like to thank everyone for their comments and also for the

presentation. I think a lot of good points were made. I would like to thank Chief Connell for the tour and I would like to thank our dispatchers for letting us watch the great work that they do. Mr. Chair it is my understanding that the original language of 15-35 would not only give the administration the authority to begin negotiations but also to enter into a contract agreement with the county. I am introducing an amendment to this resolution to require before any negotiated contract is entered into it must first be approved by Council.

Motion by Mr. Rolletta to amend Resolution 15-35, second by Mr. Blake

Mr. Bubb- I guess I can see where you are coming from Alex but what I do fear is we are running a narrow line of setting a dangerous precedence here of doing administrative duties with a legislative body. We are not the administration. I would ask you Caroline, what is your opinion on this? Are we running too narrow of a line on this? It fears me for later on. If every time there is a disagreement with an employee that doesn't like this or whatever are we always going to want to negotiate Roger Loomis's contracts or approve all of those? That fears me a little bit so could I get some input from you?

Assistant Law Director- first of all there are a lot of contracts that are done every single day without going through Council. I look at a lot of contracts. I don't know that is necessarily a concern and as far as giving an opinion it's not really my place to give. I think what Alex is trying to do is create another safe guard so that there is another step if we want to see what happens after negotiations occur then take it back to Council and if you guys aren't interested in what the negotiations were there is another safe guard to shoot it down at that point.

Mr. Rolletta- our City Charter clearly states the duties of Council are to fix the number of officers and employees in the various city departments and divisions and create combine, change or abolish departments or divisions. Therefore I think that it is appropriate that we as a Council consider any negotiated contract before it is entered into in this case.

Mr. Bubb- Alex this isn't an abolishment it is a layoff. Am I correct in saying that?

Assistant Law Director- yes

Mr. Bubb- that is two different things then what you stated with the Charter just for clarification.

Mr. Cost- whether this is considered layoffs or abolishment I think from what we sat and listened to here tonight there are a lot of concerns and I think those concerns are legitimate. We do have concerns about safety, we do have concerns about jobs, and there are human factors to this. I think there are a lot of things that we are not totally clear on as far as details and that is the sort of thing that I would assume and expect to be negotiated and once that negotiation is done I do think we need to take

another look at it and see if we can approve it. We need to make sure that we are doing this as a team. That we are doing this not only with the cooperation of the administration and the person doing the negotiation but that we are doing this with the Newark City Council as well. We all need to be involved in this to be sure that we are making the right decision for this city when it comes to safety. Number one is the safety of the citizens and safety of the officers then getting to details of jobs and finance and savings. I think that we have to be sure and I think that we should be entitled to that final opinion.

Mr. Rath- I am all for making sure we have our ducks in a row and all the information we need to make a decision on this and as many of you know there have been many of times that I try to bring things to the table and table then so we had more time to get more information and I could tell you that there has never been a time that something has been requested to be tabled where I have not agreed upon that. I think that we all need to have as much time as we feel we need to make a decision. I think that we can get all the information that we need on this and let it go through its' due course because we have another three weeks before we have our final vote on this and if we are not ready in three weeks to vote on it then we can certainly table it at that time. I think that I agree with Mr. Bubb that we are crossing a line from going from legislative body to administrative body. I don't want to take on their administrative responsibilities and I don't want to take away their administrative responsibilities of our administration. That is their jobs that is what they do. I would be in favor of tabling if you feel like you need more time but I am not in favor of tying the hands of the administration so I am not going to vote for the amendment.

Mr. Bubb- ultimately we approve the funding for the contracts so ultimately we do have the say.

Mr. Blake- I want to say a few thank you's because I did have an opportunity to go down to the Newark Police Department and sit with this nice young lady and see what she goes through. I was only there for about 90 minutes but my head was swollen when I left. I also want to thank Mr. Grady because I did go take a tour of the 911 center so I did get to experience both locations. I think that the interesting thing about our position right here is that as a Council we have a duty to the citizens to provide a service and we have a duty to the citizens to watch their treasury. There is a lot riding on just this resolution right now so there are a lot of concerns, a lot of discussion and a lot that goes into this. I went back and forth on this. I have had conversations with Director Rhodes and Director Spurgeon about what is the best path to proceed with this. First of all we have to give them authority to negotiate something so we can't just table it because they have said in conversations with me I

don't have the authority to negotiate anything. All these little details that people have been talking about, what do they mean? Well they need to negotiate that with Mr. Grady and get it all ironed out before we even have an idea as to how to answer some of these questions. They aren't posting jobs because they don't even know if there is anything negotiated there. Everything we have been talking about has been side bar conversations and just generalized. What was before us and presented was sort of a fast track method. I am in favor of slowing things down but let's let them go ahead and negotiate but bring it back. We want to look at before we actually go and do this next step. I think that is a reasonable request considering that we have been discussing this the last three hours and considering all of the conversations that have happened outside of this room. We are talking about 8 employees and we are talking about services that are provided to the entire Police Department. I have a question for madam Law Director. In the title of Mr. Rolletta's amendment if you read that it says to negotiate and enter into contract right at the top, do we need to strike that?

Assistant Law Director- I apologize that is my oversight, we do need to correct that.

Mr. Cost- what we are asking for here is to look at the details when the negotiation is done. What we are not doing is questioning or showing any lack of trust to the person who is negotiating or to the administration in any way whatsoever. We just want to see the hard facts on a piece of paper. We want to see the bottom line on what is going to be done, how it is going to be done, how we are going to serve the citizens and what it is going to cost. This is an important issue it affects every citizen in Newark. It is very hard for me to sit and listen to someone tell me that we are doing this and we don't care or that we are not concerned with the citizens of Newark or that we are willing to give up a police department and we are willing to give up a fire department. I think that is out of line. I don't think that you are going to have more people who care about the City of Newark more than the ones seated up here or the ones seated out there. I think that everyone is in this because we all truly care about the citizens of Newark and how they are being served and their safety as a whole.

Mr. Bubb- I am not going to support the amendment but that is not out of disrespect for the legislation. I just don't want to go down that road in terms of acting like the administration.

Lew Shumaker- I think that there is something that I would like to say and it has come from many people here and it's no offense to Ryan but his father is a County Commissioner and I would like to see if we could have a voluntary abstention of vote from him.

Assistant Law Director- I think that we do a lot of things with the county and it is

certainly your call; we do a lot of different items with the county so that would be up to you.

Mr. Bubb- I will continue to vote on it as I have done with other votes with the County

Motion to amend Resolution 15-35 passed by a 3 (Mr. Blake, Mr. Rolletta, Mr. Cost)-2 (Mr. Rath & Mr. Bubb) vote.

Motion to send Resolution 15-35 on to full Council passed by a 5-0 vote

Mr. Guthrie- I think that there is an unanswered question and it has to do with my comment. Mr. Spurgeon I think you might want to hear this. Regarding whether law enforcement officers should have the right on this issue to come before Council and express their concerns one way or another about the safety aspects of this proposal. I know what Mr. Spurgeon said. I know what our email exchanges have said but I haven't heard anything explicit that there is no problem with law enforcement officers coming to this podium and stating how they feel one way or the other about this proposal from a safety perspective. Bill do you want to say that you don't object to officers coming in here?

Director Spurgeon- I have heard this three times now. There are many police officers here and they have had many opportunities to speak. I am not going to dignify this continual pecking that I am somehow holding them back. They are here, they have had every opportunity and I have not debated anyone's point of view. There is simply no word or deed that I am aware of that would make anybody feel that they don't have a right to speak freely.

Mr. Cost- is there any police officers here that want to speak, feel free? We certainly have no objections.

Darrin Logan- I am going to disagree with the Safety Director on this. We have a Union and we elect within the Police Department an Officer Coordinator and he is the liaison between the Union and the City. He has the authorization to speak the rest of us are not permitted to speak about matter in the Police Department.

Mr. Rath- who is the Union rep?

Darrin Logan- Dave Arndt

Dave Arndt- I first would like to thank Council for taking their time on this. These positions are funded through the end of the year there is no sense in rushing into this with no facts. The city has not provided one fact to us. It has been we just want to show you, we want to do this when they have talked about this. It is ridiculous to think they haven't talked about this. I am the liaison and if the Safety Director wants to open it up and let the officers know that they can show up and talk next week at City Council then great, we will do it.

Mr. Rath- if we make this move will it increase or decrease the safety of our police officers, in your opinion. The second question is if we make this move will it increase or decrease the safety of our citizens?

Dave Arndt- I believe that it will decrease because you are piling all of our work on the county. They have shown with the fire contract that they will not dedicate a sole dispatcher to our city. These are facts this is what they do and yet we are getting ready to trade them a car just because it needs an oil change. It doesn't make any sense. Let's find other avenue to fix this problem that we have with technology. The Police Department has given the city back money at the end of the year through unspent budget items. We have unfunded positions right now. Since this administration took over I would say every year there is an unfunded position, many unfunded positions. There is money. He says there is a \$100,000.00 cost savings. We have had how many positions unfunded from the beginning of the year.

Mr. Rath- do you mean to say funded positions that are unfilled?

Dave Arndt- correct

Mr. Cost- how soon would these negotiations start and any concept of a time frame where we would see anything back to us?

Director Spurgeon- I don't want to commit to a time frame right now. I listened very, very careful and there are a number of concerns that folks have emanated that they want addressed in a contract. Whether I can do that or not it is going to take some time. We will start as soon as it is practical. We can get everybody in a room and go.

Mr. Cost- so it would be soon then to start?

Director Spurgeon- if we are given permission absolutely.

Mr. Rath- I would encourage you to hear Officer Arndt. The biggest concern that he expressed that I heard was that we need dedicated dispatchers in the county system for the City of Newark. I would imagine that would be a negotiated line item. Whether you can negotiate that or not I don't know but I would say I would work towards that.

Director Spurgeon- My public response Mr. Rath deserves many tenancies of the agreement with the county from 1999 that I would not negotiated but I don't think any of them are adversely affecting safety. I think it is not equitable financially.