

**DOWNRIVER MUTUAL AID  
REGULAR MEETING – December 2, 2010**

**Item #4**

Present:

Allen Park	Mayor Gary Burtka
Brownstown Twp.	Deputy Supervisor Greg Mahar
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
Grosse Ile Twp.	
Huron Twp.	Supervisor Elke Doom
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
River Rouge	
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	Police Chief Stephen Rowe
Romulus	
Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
Taylor	Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-tem Jeffrey Harris
Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

Others present: D/F/Lt. Darwin Scott, Police Chief Dan Grant & Fire Chief Bruce Vick

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Councilman Terry Teifer, at 5:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Deputy Treasurer Mahar, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Secretary Frank Vaslo reported. Motion by Mayor Cadez, supported by Mayor Peterson, to accept the minutes of 11/4/10 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

911 Tower & Microwave Dish: Chief Dan Grant reported.

Chief Grant explained the need for an additional microwave dish for full connection of the 911 system. Lt. Bobbie Heck, of the 911 Technology Committee, reported that the system is large enough to allow for communities outside the Downriver to join the system. The microwave system is Part 1 of the installation process. The primary server is in Wyandotte, with the secondary link needed in the west end of the area. Kim Donahey added that we have a grant to cover the cost of 4 microwave dishes. Once that is set up, we are working on getting all of the tower sites and microwave dishes onto one system. Dan gave detailed background of cooperation between the communities and how well the system is working. Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Mayor Kuspa, to approve installing a microwave dish on a tower in Wyandotte, at a minimal cost of \$100 per year for the space. Motion carried (one abstained – Mayor Joe Peterson).

911 Radio System: Chief Dan Grant gave a history of the \$12 million loan procured twelve years ago for a new radio system. The Police Chair at that time, from the City of Taylor, set up the radio system with 4 tower sites (Taylor, Riverview, Ecorse, and Flat Rock). The end result was that our Downriver police and fire departments had one of the finest radio communication systems in the State. Requirement at that time was to get communication level up to 800 MHz on the radio communication system (paid by residents from phone bills). Wayne County is separated into different sections (Detroit, Eastern Wayne County, Western Wayne County, and the DCC area).

911 Radio System (continued):

The loan is paid off now, and the radio system needs to be upgraded with more enhanced equipment (current system works well with interoperability but mobile radios in our fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars need to be upgraded). Monies generated through the phone bills will cover needed upgrades. Two options at this time are to continue with our own system or go with the Michigan Public Safety Communications Network. Detailed discussion followed on the two options, and meetings held with the 911 Technology Committee and vendors. Dan said a majority of our communities want to continue with the current system for its interoperability capabilities, with upgrades. The Police Chiefs Committee met and all present, with the exception of one, voted to continue with operating our own system, instead of going with the State's system. Fire Chiefs met and voted unanimously to continue with our system. Timing is essential in making a decision.

Detailed discussion followed. Chair Teifer emphasized the importance of a communications system and the need to be united for what works best for this area. Motion by Mayor Cadez, supported by Mayor Lamarand, to refer this issue to a Special Finance Committee (to include police and fire chiefs, and Mayors Kuspa and Lamarand) to review preparing an RFP for a consultant. Further, that this Special Finance Committee will meet within the next week, if possible, to expedite the process, with follow-up to be provided to the communities at the February board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report: Mayor Durand reported in absence of Treasurer Tim Keyes.

Finance Minutes of 11/4/10: Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Mayor Cadez, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Checks over \$5,000: Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Mayor Cadez, to approve over-time reimbursement for a six-month period to the State for \$31,852.31 as presented for DRANO. The motion passed unanimously.

Downriver Mutual Aid Report:

DRANO: D/F/Lt. Darwin Scott reported. Activity report for November was included in the packet for information. (1) DRANO had \$80,000 from the Byrne Grant to give to an agency willing to commit an officer to DRANO, but has not received any commitments yet; therefore, after getting approval by their Grants Management Section, they are dedicating \$35,050 of those funds to Wyandotte PD for overtime; the remainder had to be returned the State; Chief Dan Grant added that Wyandotte was the only community who took part in that Byrne Grant; (2) The Annual School Liaison meeting was held yesterday with five police departments represented – if your community still needs educational supplies, let him know; (3) DRANO's 10-year lease at their current facility is resolved; (4) The staff are working 10-hour days to reduce need for overtime – will do this for a 6-month trial period.

Police: Police Chair Dan Grant reported. (1) No SWAT Team callouts this month; (2) They are continuing with the eight applicants who passed the physical agility tests for the SWAT Team with follow-up background checks; (4) The Downriver Major Crimes Task Force was called out to assist with a homicide in Flat Rock.

Fire: Fire Chair Bruce Vick reported. (1) The Fire Investigation Task Force had two call-outs for fires in Wyandotte and Ecorse; (2) Seven members went to training – covering everything from courtroom testimony to structural mobile property fire investigations and a regional seminar in Dearborn; (3) Haz Mat Team had no call outs but received two checks for cost recovery: one for \$1,580 from Wyandotte, with \$980 that went back to the communities for manpower and \$600

Fire Report (continued):

went into our DMA budget; second check was for a call-out at I-275 in Romulus for \$17,920, with \$9,520 going back to communities for manpower, and \$8,400 went back into the DMA budget; (5) The Dive Team responded to a call in Trenton for an attempted suicide - some equipment was damaged, and we're hoping to be reimbursed for that. (6) Fire activity report for November 2010 was handed out for information.

2011 Board Meeting Dates: List was included in the board packets for information.

New Business:

Raffle: Mayor Jeff Lamarand of Taylor announced they are holding a raffle on January 31<sup>st</sup> for a new Chevrolet Corvette (tax-free) from Taylor Chevrolet, to benefit fallen officer Edwards. Contact the Mayor's office if you're interested – cost is \$100 per ticket.

Thank you: Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski of Flat Rock thanked the Downriver Major Crimes Taskforce for helping with the homicide in Flat Rock.

Remarks from the audience:

Goodfellows: Chuck Paddock announced that the Goodfellows group is taking names of families in need. Board members were asked to complete the form if they know of anyone.

Homeland Security: James Buford distributed reference guides to board members for their communities.

Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Cadez, to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.