

Lakeview Crime Prevention District

Meeting

September 29, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Dominic Rectory Meeting Room

Martin Landrieu, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Roll was called, in attendance were: Reid Raymond, Joe Landry, Jeb Bruneau, Brian Anderson, Nancy Lytle, John Grillot, Martin Landrieu, Joe Giarrusso, Val Cupit, and Freddy Yoder. Also in attendance were board accountant Larry Jacobi, and board attorney Richard Bordelon. A quorum was established with 10 board members present. Also present were approximately 8 members of the community.

Opening Comments: Martin reported that the minutes from the last meeting would be presented to the board for approval at the next meeting. He immediately went into issue on the agenda which he identified as the budget for next year and pointed out that it was announced at the previous meeting that by this meeting they expected to have heard from the city about the payroll charge-back resolution, but that they have not yet heard an answer yet but reviewed what they did learn at the meeting on Tuesday with the city. The first possible method for the charge-backs to the district would be that all time is charged at overtime. That was how it was historically been billed and is the worst case scenario. The second method is that only overtime hours imposed by LCPD to be overtime would be charged overtime otherwise we would be charged straight time. This is what is expected to most likely happen. The third and most advantageous to LCPD would be that they look specifically at hours that someone works for LCPD whether it's at the beginning of the shift or the end of the shift and call it straight time or overtime whatever it is. At Tuesday's meeting the fiscal officer said that she has recommended to the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) the middle ground interpretation of the contract which is more beneficial than it has been in the past. However, we do not know the answer from the city yet, but we must still pass a budget tonight. Jeb expresses frustrations with not having heard an answer from the city when it was indicated by them that we would have one by now and that we are now required to establish a budget for the following year tonight. Martin gave the public an opportunity to comment and Gino Ascani commented that he felt that the board was too worried about using NOPD patrols, that these patrols are costing almost a million dollars a year and that other options are available. Martin then moved into the agenda items which he identified as the 2017 budget and a discussion about if they wanted to increase the amount of the fee that is charged per parcel for LCPD.

2017 Budget: Larry passed out a document that proposed a 2017 budget under two scenarios (the document is attached). He went through each of them to make it clear how the calculations came about. He asked the board to concentrate on the last 2 columns of the handout and reviewed those columns a line item at a time. Larry stated that he had reviewed with Sgt. Benjamin the proposed level of patrol reductions and that Sgt. Benjamin was not uncomfortable with those reductions. Larry pointed out that it was bringing the patrols to the level that they were at pre-August 2015. Martin pointed out

that August 2015 was when the board implemented the increase in patrols due to the surplus. He pointed out that this was basically being a break even budget with very little surplus and that it is a very, very, close budget with no wiggle room what-so-ever. Larry pointed out that there was nothing in the budget for cars, but that Sgt. Benjamin expressed that he felt that there would be no need for new cars in the 2017 budget. Larry pointed out that the only way to leave money for cars would be to lower the level of patrols. Martin pointed out that the currently proposed budget that that was being discussed was with the current fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars and that was something that could be talked about. Val stated that we would now have to be very smart about our patrols and not just put people on patrols when they are not needed and that we need high quality patrols, not just quantity. Martin pointed out that in the past that Sgt. Benjamin has followed the directive of the board and that now there would be a different directive. John Grillot added that there had been a public vote that gave the board the leeway to raise the fee to as high as one hundred and fifty dollars. He suggested that the board consider raising the fee not to the entire one hundred and fifty, but to perhaps one hundred forty dollars. He felt that the proposed budget was a little too tight. He would feel more comfortable with more surplus for incidentals such as cars. Brian pointed out that we could decide on the budget tonight and that it could be adjusted during the year as in March, but that the decision to raise the fee cannot be adjusted. Larry stated that what the board does, is that rather than submit a new budget each time that there is a change by more than five percent, that it is done once towards the end of the year. Brian then suggested that we should look at the way that we are spending first to make sure that you are spending as prudently as possible before you go back to the bank for more money. Joe Giarrusso asked if Brian was suggesting that we raise the fee because we don't know the current bill-back method from the city and Brian clarified that he was not, that he was suggesting the opposite, that before we go back to the people to say that we need more money, that we make certain that we need more money. Martin pointed out that if someone is interested in raising the rate, that we have until October one to tell the city that we want to raise the rate. Martin asked if the board could then focus on approving the expenses portion of the proposed budget. Freddy pointed out how tight the budget is and that everything must work out perfectly for it to work and that the board has the latitude to put a reserve in place so that in the event that the city goes in a direction that increases costs, that the board will not be crippled in the process. Freddy said there simply isn't enough in the other line items to take out of in order to maintain the budgeted level of patrols. There is zero float in this budget and that there is no going back to the well after October 1 passes, yet you don't have the answer from the city until after that date. He stated that he would rather have the money in the bank and have latitude in the budget than to have our feet to the fire and not be able to wiggle at all if it turns out that we need more patrols or if we want to do something with a camera program or a car. Freddy stated that he was in favor of increasing the fee to the available twenty-five that the people gave us the approval to do. Nancy mentioned that we have been fortunate with cars but we have also always had money in the budget should a sudden need for a car be there. She suggested that the money for a car be included in the budget should the need for one arise. Jeb expressed that he could support some kind of increase but not the entire amount.

Martin asked the board if they could approve the expense portion of the budget in order that they could push past some of the issues by approving them in segments. He asked if they could all agree with the

expense items portion of the proposed budget. Hearing no objections to any expense items, he asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to increase the fee. He suggested that the moneys that come in from an increased fee could be placed either into a surplus, or into patrols. Val expressed that if the fee is increased, that a car should be included in the budget. Larry pointed out that if a car is crashed, and the additional fee money was placed in patrols, that the car could still be replaced by reducing patrols and reallocating those funds to the replacement of the car, adding that the money for car purchases is not spent until the car is ordered. Martin suggested a compromise to the budget by putting any additional money into patrols but know that you could reallocate it if you know that it was there during the year. He suggested that a lesser increase such as increasing the amount by ten or fifteen additional dollars might be more acceptable and would still create the additional surplus. Freddy made a motion to raise the fee from one hundred twenty-five dollars to one hundred and thirty-five dollars per year. It was seconded by Nancy. There was discussion on the amount of increase. It was pointed out that the board could not request another fee increase until October of next year. Martin pointed out that to his recollection, he had never voted for a fee increase before and always thought we should make do with what we had but in this case, considering all circumstances, that include pay raises to the police officers and that he felt that the increase was reasonable. Brian added that if he voted in favor of an increase, it would not be to put more money into patrols but that it would be to put it into a surplus. He stated that he was not in favor of putting money into patrols until crime goes away because he doesn't feel that is how crime is going to go away at this point. He expressed that he felt that in 2015, we reached a good level and we were doing 54% more patrols at the end of August. He added that 54% on a crime rate that is going to remain stagnant if we don't figure out another opportunity to reduce it even further. He supported putting it into a surplus. It was pointed out by many that the board had almost always shown a surplus on the budget.

Martin asked the public for comments. Gino Ascani stated that as a Lakeview property owner of three properties he supported the increase if it is used effectively. He made several suggestions such as having Harrison patrolled by an officer on a bike. He pointed out that criminals hide behind cars when they see the headlights of patrols coming up the street and the police officer is not going to see them. He suggested that maybe we could instill the SWAT team to do undercover patrols one night, stealth mode, adding maybe the officers could drive around without their lights on. He also suggested that maybe all-terrain-vehicles could be bought, where it would be less than half the price, could handle the streets just as fast, and they could have radios on them. He stated we could take more proactive measures as opposed to driving around, adding it is his opinion that the general consensus of a lot of people in Lakeview are, driving around with the lights on, driving up and down the potholed streets and they really don't catch the criminals in the act. He said it's all reactive, not proactive, and asked the board to take these things into consideration. Martin replied that such a brainstorming meeting in the future would be a good idea.

Bryan Lagarde gave several examples of how Project NOLA was able to reduce crime through the use of cameras and that Lakeview does not have any cameras. Nancy pointed out the importance of the patrols. She pointed out that our patrol cars don't just go out and drive the streets, that they actually do proactive work. She gave several examples of this proactivity such as traffic stops, arrests, and

investigating suspicious persons. Joe Giarrusso asked if a friendly motion should be made to add the funds to a surplus. Martin said that the current motion was to increase the fee to one hundred thirty-five and said if someone wanted to add to it to say where the surplus goes you can do that. Martin suggested taking the issues one item at a time, by first establishing the increase and then setting where it would be placed on the budget. Freddy called the motion to increase the fee from one hundred twenty-five to one hundred thirty-five. A vote was called for by a raising of hands. Seven were in favor, and two were opposed. Jeb and Martin were opposed. Freddy's motion to increase the fee to one hundred and thirty-five dollars passed.

Martin then called for discussion of where to place this surplus of approximately sixty thousand dollars on the budget. Larry pointed out that in order to maintain the proposed budget numbers that he could simply take a more conservative view of the collections by reducing the revenue collection projections by the amount of the increase, and that would provide a budget down to zero. Discussion ensued as to how this surplus could be listed on the budget where many various suggestions were made. It was decided that it would be done by reducing the revenue collection projections. Larry explained that as long as a variance within the budget is less than five percent of the projected numbers there is no need to amend the budget. The board does not amend the budget each time that a variance exceeds the five percent, it only amends the budget once a year to account for any variances greater than five percent. The city and state are amicable with this approach. Joe Giarrusso made a motion to accept the advice of the accountant Larry Jacobi to adjust the variable as necessary on revenue so that we have a net number of zero. The motion was seconded by John Grillot. A vote was held and the motion passed with all in favor. Richard confirmed to Martin that this vote established the budget. Martin reconfirmed to Richard for the record that Joe made the motion and that John had seconded it.

Joe Giarrusso made an omnibus motion to resolve that the fee is being increased to one hundred thirty-five dollars for 2017 and that the budget is adopted per Larry's modification of his projected budget of one hundred twenty-five with the variable of projected collections reduced to a figure that would result in a balanced budget. And that we will accept all of the line items in the Proposed Budget 2017 under the one hundred twenty-five-dollar limit (second to last column on handout) from revenue all the way down to net revenue disbursements except that the current year revenue figure of \$855,360 shall go to \$854,124. The motion to resolve was seconded by John Grillot.

Martin then called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Nancy, it was seconded by Joe Giarrusso and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.