

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE  
CITY OF TOWN & COUNTRY, MO  
May 13, 2021  
Via Zoom Videoconference  
8:00 AM

Members: Alderman Ryan Mortland (Co-Chairman), Alderman Sue Allen (Co-Chairman), Don Sanders, George Tarlas (in at 8:16AM), Todd Solomon, Amber Walsh (absent)

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Administrator Bob Shelton, Communications and Administrative Assistant Morgan Kuepfert, West County Fire Chief Jeff Sadtler.

1. Call to Order

Alderman Ryan Mortland called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and the roll as noted above was taken. There was a quorum.

2. Approval of April 15, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Sanders moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Solomon and approved.

3. Review of feedback from Ways and Means and Police Fire and EMS Commissions

Mr. Shelton informed the Task Force that the scenarios have been updated to reflect the new total assessed values of the City from St. Louis County. He noted that residential values went up \$39M, and the total went up about \$76M. Additionally, the 2020 Census information came back with a new median home appraised value of approximately \$735K. Finally, he explained that \$1M was added for additional land acquisition at the Salt Mill location. Mr. Solomon questioned the source of the median value. Alderman Mortland also asked that the Census number be verified with St. Louis County appraised values.

Mr. Shelton briefly reviewed the scenarios with the updated figures. West County Fire Chief Sadtler also noted that the estimated tax numbers for the fire district will decrease approximately \$0.05 with the updated assessment numbers.

Alderman Allen and Mortland discussed information presented to Ways and Means and Police, Fire & EMS and stated the questions were a result of the meetings. A list of questions was distributed to the Task Force Members and discussed. A copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the Minutes for the record.

4. Next Meeting Date

The Task Force will next meet on June 3, 2021 at 8:00 AM via Zoom.

5. Adjourn

At 9:00 a.m., Mr. Sanders moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tarlas and approved.

## Fire Task Force – Questions from Commission Members and Residents

### Operation Related Questions

1. Do response times include automatic aid or just West County Fire District?

*Yes, they include automatic aid.*

2. Do the response times include the fire house on Manchester?

*Yes, the fire house on Manchester is included in response times.*

3. What are the pros/cons of annexation?

*This will be discussed.*

4. Request more detail on the review process for the options presented and not presented.

*Viable options not currently being presented can be noted.*

5. What happens to response times in Ward 2 and 3 with 2 new fire stations?

*Any homes that are directly adjacent to the current station may be affected. WCFD has been asked to provide estimated response times. The goal is to balance out response times throughout the City.*

6. Is keeping the current station location impactful to response times/location for a second station?

*This option would benefit specific wards, but will not balance out response times in the entire City.*

7. What are the conditions for annexation and can you get out? Do we get representation?

*If the City were annexed, there would not be a way out. A resident of Town and Country would be eligible to run for a seat on the Fire Board.*

8. Do we need a consultant?

*A consultant could be brought in, but would be beneficial once an option has been chosen.*

9. What does Option 2 benefit for the cost?

*It was recommended by some members of Police, Fire & EMS to eliminate this option due to lack of benefit.*

10. Have traffic, signal and road configuration been factored in to response times for 2 new stations?

*Yes.*

#### Expense Related Questions

1. More detail on expense assumptions/options.

*More detail to follow.*

2. What is the timing of any tax proposal?

*Any proposal would have to be placed on the General Municipal Election ballot at the appropriate time unless authorized by the Board of Aldermen in non-reassessment years.*

3. How do the scenarios impact General Fund compared to Capital Fund?

*The majority of expenses currently come from the General Fund.*

4. Why is option 5 less costly than option 4?

*The Fire District Tax Rate would decrease with annexation of an additional area. The additional stations would be built using existing Fire District funds, where the City would have to finance.*

5. What are staffing levels and employee expenses over time?

*1% increases are anticipated with 18 firefighters/paramedics per house.*

6. What is the value of the current station?

*If the current station was sold, the value would depend on what the City would permit as a use.*

#### Operation/Expense Questions

1. Could we house an ambulance at MOBAP and rent space?

*Maybe, but still would not benefit entire City. A pumper would make the most sense if anything would be allowed to be housed there. Pumpers transport paramedics and firefighters where ambulances only transport paramedics.*

2. Could the City take over ambulance service or contract with Abbott?

*The City can opt for that option, however Chief Sadtler does not recommend this option and that unified response for all services is more beneficial.*