



Agenda

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of January 16, 2007 minutes
4. Old business:
 NONE
5. New business:
 - A. Proposed resolution designating the 2.3 million dollars, previously used for the Regional Emergency Communications Center, be used for public safety purposes, Mayor Coss, Councilor Trujillo and Councilor Bushee
 - B. Emergency Operations Plan, Martin Vigil, Director, Emergency Operations Center
 - C. Information regarding the Emergency Broadcast System, Martin Vigil, Director, Emergency Operations Center
 - D. Information regarding the Dialogic System at the Regional Emergency Communications Center, RECC Staff Member
 - E. Preliminary report on Sobering Center, Mary Justice, Program Director, CARE Connection
6. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
7. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
8. Matters from Municipal Court
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

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Minutes of the
City of Santa Fe
Public Safety Committee Meeting

Santa Fe, New Mexico

February 20, 2007

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Councilor Karen Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Lack of a Quorum was indicated as Follows:

Councilor Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Mr. Frank Stuto
Mr. Pete Mizrahi

Member(s) Excused:

Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Dr. Mike Mier
Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis
Mr. Henry Valdez
Mr. Michael Bowen
Mr. Don Moya

Staff Present:

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Fire Chief Chris Rivera, Santa Fe Fire Department
Shannon Cantu, Santa Fe Police Department

Others Present:

Deputy Chief Ben Montaña, Santa Fe Police Department
Deputy Fire Chief Randy Neumann, Santa Fe Fire Department
Martin Black, IT Manager, Regional Emergency Communications Center
Martin Vigil, Director, Emergency Operations Center
Mary Justice, Program Director, CARE Connection
Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer

Chair Heldmeyer explained that due to the legislature currently being in session, the committee would not have a quorum, and therefore would not be able to hear action items.

At the request of staff, the present committee members will hear three presentations on emergency issues and comment on the presentations. In addition, Mary Justice will present a preliminary report on the Sobering Center as well.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Emergency Operations Plan- Martin Vigil, Director, Emergency Operations Center

Mr. Vigil explained that the Emergency Operations Center currently has a 2001 document that is not “operationally oriented.” There was a project in 2003, involving a grant where a vendor was selected to draft an Emergency Operations Plan for Santa Fe. The grant ran out, and the document that the vendor drafted was “not usable.”

Chair Heldmeyer asked how much the City paid for the unusable document. Mr. Vigil explained that the grant totaled \$48,000, and the County spent about \$15,000 and received nothing in return. He estimated that the total lost on the unusable document was between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

Mr. Vigil explained that he began drafting a separate Emergency Operations Plan.

The plan is an “all-hazard plan.”

Mr. Vigil explained that the plan is “operationally sound” and provides clarity and direction as far as who is responsible for different areas of functionality during a large-scale event. The plan complies with some of the federal requirement for Emergency Operations Plans.

After 9/11, Congress mandated that the top 100 cities in the country should have their Emergency Operations Plans reviewed. As one of these cities, Albuquerque had some issues regarding federal compliance with their Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Vigil felt that the draft of Santa Fe’s Emergency Operations Plan needed to be adopted. He explained that the Plan is “a working document.” He added that there would be exercises done that are included in the Plan. The Plan would then receive comments, and then be “tweaked” based on those comments.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the exercises would be “on the ground exercises” or “tabletop exercises.” Mr. Vigil explained that the exercises would include both full-scale and tabletop. He added that the first tabletop exercise with the city administration would be this Friday. Chair Heldmeyer asked what the simulated disaster would be. Mr. Vigil explained that he couldn’t reveal the simulated exercise. He added that the City department heads would all have a role in the simulated scenario.

A similar exercise was done with the Santa Fe County Offices in July of 2006.

The simulated disaster will take place in the Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Vigil explained that the process would involve distribution of the plan so people will have the chance to “get familiar with the document” and make comments on the document. He added that a corrected version would hopefully be put out by the end of the year.

The Plan document lays out who the major players would be, what their areas of responsibilities would be. The Plan also includes the adoption of the National Incidents Management System.

Chair Heldmeyer asked how much of the Plan was used during the big snowstorm. Mr. Vigil explained that functionally a lot of the plan was used. He added that plans are not the answer to working through major incidents, but rather the individual relationships of those working in the Emergency Response community that “makes things happen.”

Mr. Vigil explained that there is a federal requirement to have the Plan in place. He added that it’s a good starting point for people coming into local government to have a reference that they can start learning from in terms of what is available as far as the City’s Emergency Management Program.

**B. Information Regarding the Emergency Broadcast System- Martin Vigil,
Director, Emergency Operations Center**

Mr. Vigil explained that the Emergency Broadcast System is the predecessor to the current Emergency Alert System. The Alert System is done through required tests on the television and radio. Essentially, this is an all-hazard notification system. It has a parallel component used by the National Weather Service, and has “connectivity at that level.”

Mr. Vigil explained that all local officials who are involved with Emergency Services in Santa Fe have access to the Emergency Alert System. There are pre-designated scripts

and an access code so that if information needs to get out using the Alert System, authorized users could dial in a number, give their security code, and then would be able to read off the script. That message would then be sent out over a majority of local media outlets including the major broadcast stations for both television and radio. Recently, the cable television systems have also come on board with the Alert System. This is all coordinated at the state level. KKOB is the official warning station for the State of New Mexico.

The National Weather Service has taken the lead in defining what is called “Specific Area Messaging.” This messaging system is not currently available in Santa Fe, but it will be available soon. With the system in place, individuals who have alert radios would receive alert messages targeted to specific areas in each county. There is no current timeline for when this system would be in place yet.

Along with this, Mr. Vigil is working to get these radios into critical infrastructures. The Santa Fe Public Schools have recently received Weather Alert radios for the majority of schools through the Homeland Security Project.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that there are local areas around Santa Fe that can’t receive the weather radio station broadcasts.

Mr. Vigil explained that the current frequency that is on the Santa Fe system is on Tesuque Peak, and does have some “dead areas” of service. He added that as money becomes available, the Weather Service has plans to expand some of those sites.

Mr. Vigil reiterated that KKOB is the state’s official warning radio station. He added that community warning is a “significant unmet need in Santa Fe.” He explained that he is trying to get a community warning siren into the Santa Fe area.

Mr. Vigil explained that there is currently a “total lack of federal funding for sirens.” He felt that there should be a “multi-layered approach.” Mr. Vigil’s recommendation would be to push for a multi-layered mass warning system.

Chief Johnson asked Mr. Vigil if the plans for Friday’s Tabletop exercise have been confirmed. Mr. Vigil explained that the exercise starts at 9 a.m. and would go until 1 p.m.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if city and county departments might have a coordinated effort for certain types of incidents. Mr. Vigil explained that there were two fire incidents near the Rufina Street area, where both city and county units responded to the call. Initially, the City Battalion Chief was the Incident Commander. The County Battalion Captain came

in as the Operations Section Chief. There were both County and City personnel inside the structure.

Mr. Vigil added that it is important that city residents are aware that, even with the recent issues between the City and County, one of the greatest strengths of Santa Fe is the working relationship out in the field of both City and County response personnel.

Chair Heldmeyer explained the City's IT Department is attempting to establish a "more unified communications system for the city's emergency personnel." She asked Mr. Vigil if there was "a seamless communication system between the City and County yet." Mr. Vigil explained that Santa Fe is further ahead than most communities. He added that one project he is currently undertaking is installing VHF radios back into the city patrol units. He explained that the city is looking at where the system should be ten years from now. Much of this is "in line with what the federal government has requested the City to do as far as inter-operability of communication systems." He explained that this study is in mid-project currently.

Mr. Vigil explained that one of the initial obstacles with this whole process was that they did not have the technical description of what the system should look like. He added that this engineering study would hopefully give the City some of that description.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Mr. Vigil what the triggers for the REMC to get involved. Mr. Vigil explained that the triggers would come from the RECC, in the event of situations involving multiple alarm fires, evacuations, or situations involving the Airport. In addition, any situation involving a "cluster of triggers for any given incident" would necessitate involvement from the REMC. He added that he monitors the frequencies on a regular basis. He explained that his role in the event of an incident would be to initiate a "situational analysis team" involving the Santa Fe City Police Chief, the Fire Chief, the County Sheriff, the County Fire Chief, and either the City Manager or the County Manager. Together, they would determine the level of response from the local government, as well as the activation of the Emergency Operations Center. In this plan, certain individuals could trigger activation of the EOC without going through this whole process.

C. Information Regarding the Dialogic System at the Regional Emergency Communications Center- Martin Black, ITT Manager, RECC

Mr. Black explained the Dialogic Communications Corp., DCC, was founded in 1982. It is the primary "established leader in critical locations technology." The system has the capability to notify first-responders, at risk communities during life-threatening

situations, automating communications between consumers and call centers, or streamlining the information exchange in a corporate environment.

The DCC System was originally installed in the City's Police Department in April 2002. In June 2005, it was relocated to the RECC, and the "geo-cast portion of the system" was updated. In October 2006, the system was updated once again.

Of the multiple products that the DCC does have, the RECC utilizes two products including the geo-cast and the communicator. The geo-cast is based on GIS and is designed to work with the communicator. The GIS tool enables "map driven communications."

The RECC has used the geo-cast system to notify communities of missing people and in the event of SWAT situations.

Chair Heldmeyer asked how many homes were contacted at one time when the system was used for notification. Mr. Black explained that in the SWAT situation, they notified the neighborhood that had any access to get into the area, approximately 25 homes. He added that in the missing person situation, an area in the Eldorado neighborhood was notified. He explained that the system is "not a mass notification system."

The geo-cast uses a T1 to communicate out. Twenty-three of the twenty-four lines that a T1 has are used to transfer calls out. He explained that this equates to approximately twenty-four people that could be notified in one minute. Chair Heldmeyer asked Mr. Black if this number might be improved. Mr. Black explained that the only way to improve it is to outsource it to DCCC, which would cost "a lot of money."

Chair Heldmeyer explained that it sounded like the system may not work in a timely way, which was why she asked about improvements. Mr. Black explained that there are a few options that they could look into, one of which would be to outsource the system straight to DCC, who could notify 300 people in approximately two minutes, straight from their Center.

Mr. Black explained that cost is a big issue with these notifications. Chair Heldmeyer explained that the question is whether the cost is upfront or is the cost at the time of the notification. She added that if the cost comes at the time of the notification, then "no one would argue that money at that time."

Mr. Vigil explained that he would not support looking into system upgrades. He explained that one thing that was a problem in an incident in Eldorado was that numerous people did not receive the notification message because of blocked lines. He did feel that

the system did have its application, but added that there are other systems that need to be spread out to address lifestyle. He explained that he would be more supportive of putting funding into audible and wireless notification warning systems.

Mr. Vigil explained that the technology is heading towards being able to track individual cell phones to group them into a geographical system.

Chair Heldmeyer explained, "At some point, the city's Public Safety officials, Mr. Vigil, and the RECC should discussed what the most cost-effective ways are to notify residents in case of emergency situations."

Mr. Vigil explained that the current Homeland Security funds are not funding Community Warning Projects.

Mr. Black explained that the Dialogic System uses a software package called the Communicator that has the ability to put teams together in response situations. The Dialogic System is used with the City's Hazmat Team. It has been successful in these areas.

D. Preliminary Report on the Sobering Center- Mary Justice, Program Director, Care Connection

Ms. Justice explained that 3,000 people have been seen in the Sobering Center's Assessment Center since it opened. 3,000 vouchers have been issued. Local providers have billed about 1.5 million in clinical and recovery support vouchers.

The vouchers are available for those individuals who could not otherwise afford treatment. The Assessment Center is located in the same building as the Sobering Center so that staff and resources could be shared between the two programs.

The Sobering Center started seeing clients on November 27, 2006. Thirteen staff members were hired. The Center has a Program Manager, a Case Manager, and twelve other staff members. One every shift, the Center has either an EMT or a med tech available, in addition to a sobering tech staff member.

The Sobering Center is open 24 hours a day.

The Center has seen 107 clients, 96 of those were male. Twenty-three of these individuals had finished high school. Two of these individuals had doctorate degrees. 56 of the clients were never married. 73 clients indicated that their primary language was English, while

others spoke either Spanish or various Native American dialects. 50 clients were homeless. Nine clients were veterans. Five of the clients were working either part-time or full-time. 99 of the 107 clients had alcohol as the “presenting problem,” while seven clients had other drug problems, and one client had unknown problems. Nineteen people were repeat clients.

Eight people have been placed at the Santa Fe Recovery Center, the county’s only in-patient residential treatment program.

Five individuals have been referred to Life Link’s Intensive Outpatient program through vouchers. Four individuals were referred to St. Elizabeth’s Shelter. One individual was sent to treatment in Colorado. About fifty other clients were sent to various agencies for food, shelter, and clothing.

For the clients who refuse any type of referral, the Sobering Center provides these individuals with information about where to get various services.

Ms. Justice explained that the goal of the Assessment Center is to provide a more “uniform community-wide approach to diversion from jail and diversion from St. Vincent’s Emergency Room. This has been the Center’s target population.

All of the Sobering Center’s clients are referred through the ER at St. Vincent’s Hospital. Ms. Justice explained that the Sobering Center has a custodial drug license with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy, so they take custody of any medication that a client may arrive with at the Center.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if there was a time limitation to how long clients can stay at the Sobering Center. Ms. Justice explained that average stay for clients is approximately three to five days.

Mr. Mizrahi asked how many people could be cared for at one time at the Sobering Center. Ms. Justice explained that the Sobering Center has fifteen beds, ten male beds and five female beds because they found that the majority of the clients being picked up were males.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if clients could leave on their own recognizance. Ms. Justice explained that law enforcement would intervene with those individuals who are still intoxicated and choose to leave the Center. She added that the Center is a “totally voluntary facility.” She added that the Center completes Breathalyzer tests on their clients at intake and discharge.

Chair Heldmeyer asked Chief Johnson if this program has helped cut down on incarcerations. Chief Johnson explained that there aren't concrete numbers available yet.

Mr. Mizrahi asked where the funding for the Sobering Center comes from. Ms. Justice explained that the Center has MOA money, from St. Vincent's Hospital Community Funds. In the coming fiscal year, the Center will have approximately 45% of the detox funds from the Department of Finance and Administration.

Chair Heldmeyer asked whether the CARE Connection would be closing. Ms. Justice explained that this is the last year of the ATR Voucher Program, which has given the Center the money to pay for people's treatment, but it doesn't pay for the Assessment Center itself. The State has submitted a proposal to extend the voucher program through July 2008. The Center is beginning to look at fundraising for the Assessment Center, as well, to keep it functioning.

Chief Johnson explained that he has heard that The Sobering Center has cut down on the amount of time that an officer is kept off the street dealing with bookings.

Matters From Police Chief Johnson:

Chief Johnson explained that Deputy Chief Ben Montaña is fitting in well with the Department.

Matters From Fire Chief Rivera:

Chief Rivera explained that recruitment in the Fire Department has not been a problem.

Twenty individuals have been hired since December.

Chief Rivera explained that sixteen individuals would graduate in May from the Training Academy.

The City Council approved the purchase of two new fire trucks at mid-year. The Department has also been approved to purchase cardiac monitors at mid-year. The Fire Department currently has four snow ploughs, in addition to several vehicles that are installed with the "receiver end of a snow plough."

Chief Rivera explained that the Emergency Operations Plan was an action item that needs to go to Council for approval. Chair Heldmeyer explained that the City Manager would discuss with Mayor Coss as to where it should go next.

Mr. Mizrahi asked if the new airport vehicle is ready to be put into service. Deputy Chief Neumann explained that the Department is beginning the training process for its firefighters. All the specs have been completed on the truck. There were only two minor repairs that were indicated during the vehicle's systems check. The truck is ready to go into service, but the firefighters must first complete their training before it can be stationed at the airport. The target date for the vehicle to be put in service is currently late May, early June.

Mr. Mizrahi asked where the vehicle would be housed temporarily. Deputy Chief Neumann explained that the Department is looking at various housing options, one of which would be housing the vehicle at Station 8. Another option would be temporary housing at the airport until a permanent housing structure would be built.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

None

Matters from Committee:

None

Communications From The Floor:

None

Adjournment:

Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Approved by



Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by



Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer