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MINUTES

LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES AND FINANCING TASK FORCE
September 8, 2003

Present: Terry England, Chair
Bruce Geer
Lisa McIntryre
David Welch
John Zurenda

Absent: Jack Latvala
Nancy Loehr
Charles Rainey

Also Present: Sid Klein, Clearwater Police Chief
James Dates, Pinellas County Office of Justice
Cyndie Goudeau, Clearwater City Clerk

The Chair convened the meeting at 3:07 p.m. in Clearwater City Hall Commission Chambers.

The Chair reported he gave a status report to the County Commission last Wednesday.

Chief Klein reported county police chiefs and their staffs participated in an all day retreat with the Sheriff and his staff. He stated they believe the recommendations in the report resulting from the retreat are achievable. The big ticket items are technology and the functional consolidation of services under the Sheriff. There has been discussion of some sort of taxing mechanism.

In response to a question, Chief Klein indicated there will be some degree of combining of the radio users and enforcer group. He state the Pinellas Police Standards Council (PPSC) will be meeting to refine the recommendations.

It was remarked that the PPSC focused on issues, not cost. It was also noted many of the financial issues cross over into the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) Task Force's area.

In response to a question, Chief Klein providing forensics will have a major financial impact on the Sheriff and issues re contracting for levels of service and the ability to opt out need to be addressed.

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A question was raised regarding allowing police enforcement in enclaves. It was reported progress was being made in this area and was not something the Task Force needs to be concerned with.

Discussion ensued regarding law enforcement support for the schools. It was reported law enforcement agencies provide services to the school board without being fully compensated, for the good of the community.

In response to a question regarding the Sheriff providing prisoner transport, Chief Klein stated consensus was if the Sheriff provided this the police agencies will use it. Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Coats stated if this service is funded county-wide, a municipality would be able to opt out but would receive no credit. The Chair pointed out that the ability to opt in or out is not being considered by other task forces.

In response to questions, Tim Burns, Pinellas County Justice Coordination, reported the Enforcer steering committee is moving forward to determine the best applications available to address technology needs. The possibility of centralized CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) and RMS (Records Management System) is being investigated.

More in-depth information regarding current cost to municipalities is needed prior to detailed information regarding savings resulting from consolidation can be provided. A request was made the information provided be broken into capital and operating.

Concerns were expressed regarding being able to make recommendations without knowing all the impacts. It was noted there is still a lot of work to be done and there will be additional staff meeting to distill the recommendations. Discussion ensued with it being suggested the Task Force concentrate on recommending those things that will result in better service and leave funding concerns to the Pinellas Assembly and County Commission.

Mr. Dates pointed out that all recommendations will go back, not only to the County, but to all the municipalities as well.

Chief Klein recommended the Task Force's report be bifurcated into those items that are currently known and those that will require more time, such as the technology issues.

Member Welch moved that at the next meeting the Task Force concentrate on what is presented by the Police Standards Council. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be October 6, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.

In response to a question, Mr. Dates indicated his staff would prepare the report once the Task Force gets to that point.

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8. The chair reported he will try to attend the MSTU Task force meeting on October

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.