

**BOARD OF WORKS
PUBLIC SAFETY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010
8:00 A.M.**

Mayor James Fleck – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present
Walter Crowder – Present
Roger Seymoure – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session specifically with the Communications and Fire Department. All members were present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

COMMUNICATIONS/IS DEPARTMENT Terry Wherry reported they received 2,963 911 calls in 2009 and logged 29,613 business calls. He stated as far as police radio traffic they recorded 103,598 instances and for the utility they recorded 35,512 instances of radio traffic.

Roger Seymoure questioned if all of the 911 calls start through the County. Terry explained they did not and were generated according to the identifier.

General discussion took place on back up plans either with the generator or through the County if needed. Rosie Coyle commented that people do not realize what all goes through our dispatch. Walt Crowder agreed it was a very complex network to provide that service.

Roger Seymoure questioned of all the 29,613 business calls if they rolled through dispatch. Terry advised they did. Roger stated for those who talk about combining 911 centers, if we would get rid of our dispatch center, there would be 29,000 that would have to be handled some other way, which was way beyond the 911 calls. Mayor Fleck stated that issue continues to come up and it is based upon the assumption it would be cheaper and less expensive to provide one service. He explained if we combined 911 we still would have to have the same operation we have today in terms of equipment and personnel. He advised we would be relieved of some emergency calls but the amount of back up we would have to do would continue to be pretty significant. He explained it wasn't that either agency did not have the capacity to help each other but on a long term basis they could not. He stated we would still have to monitor all of the security systems and when the Clerk's Office was closed, dispatch was where people go. He explained when the committee met, consisting of business people and citizens, they made a determination that we would have to continue to operate. He advised it was not that we could not cooperate but we had a distinctively different operation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported their run numbers for 2009 was in the high 600's. He advised they had 36 days of fire prevention, 2 days of ladder testing, 2 days of rescue tool testing, 2 days of air pack flow testing and one evening of assisting Santa. He discussed the state requirements for all of their training in the different areas.

Walt Crowder pointed out that we were able to reap the benefits of having our firefighters be EMT's as well.

Discussion followed on the importance of the volunteers to the department and community.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Mayor Fleck reported they were constantly working on drug intervention and enforcement. He advised this past year they have had lower manpower because of the military services with 3 officers being gone as well as 3 officers who incurred injuries. He reported the police department responded to 138 burglar alarms in 2009 versus 254 in 2008 and attributed that to the program they put in place requiring businesses owners to fix their alarms so that they did not malfunction on a regular basis. He advised they assisted other departments or agencies 412 times and had 3,419 traffic stops that resulted in tickets or warnings. He reported they worked 320 property damage accidents and did 4,806 business checks and walk throughs.

Rosie Coyle commended the police reserves for all they provide for the department and community.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle