

A Special Budget Meeting of the Royal Oak City Commission was held on Monday, May 10, 2010, in the City Hall, 211 Williams, Royal Oak. The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ellison at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mayor	Ellison	
Commissioners	Andrzejak	
	Capello	
	Drinkwine	
	Poulton	
	Rasor	
	Semchena	

* * * * *

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present who wished to speak.

* * * * *

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Finance Director Rudd gave an overview of the budget. The proposed budget does include transfers of over \$2M. Utilization of the Fund Balance can't continue past 2011-12.

City Manager Johnson noted that the fund balance percentage in 2011-12 exceeds policy which says they're to have 10-25%.

State Shared Revenue and Interest Revenue have declined. They're expecting decreases in Criminal Traffic Division Revenue and Ambulance Service Revenue due to staff cuts. The budget is dependent on loss of staff. In order to keep personnel expenditures down they were recommending eliminating 77 full time positions. That includes recent retirements and eliminating vacant positions. All departments would lose staff. The Police Department will lose 37 positions and Fire Department 19.

* * * * *

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the budget restored some positions eliminated in an earlier report. This was done to enable them to provide what Chief White felt was the minimum number of firefighters necessary to provide adequate fire response to the entire city from the three exiting stations. The primary duty was fire suppression. They planned to eliminate ALS transport. They would still respond to calls with an engine but after the patient was stabilized he/she would be transported by a private contractor.

Chief White explained the minimum response for a fire would be three-person engines and a two-person ladder truck. That gave them 11, with a total shift size of 13 and a department size for 24-hour personnel of 39. They still couldn't make the 25% target. The one service he could get from the private sector was ALS transport. There were costs of getting out of ALS transport beyond the loss of revenue. They'd be compromising response time, patient care and the relationship with the public. He'd be left with the decision of what type of fire service they wanted to deliver. Neighboring cities were facing the same financial difficulties. Mutual aid might not be available.

Mr. Johnson stated this was the best alternative given the resources available. Their first responsibility had to be fire response.

* * * * *

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jahnke explained how staff reductions effected the department. A community police officer, both K-9 officers, officers assigned to Narcotics Enforcement Team, two detectives, two sergeants, 13 patrol officers and three civilian positions will probably be lost in the first year. Another 16 sworn positions will be lost in the second year. They would no longer be available to respond to all calls for assistance. Response times will increase. Special events will be covered with staff on overtime.

* * * * *

The Department of Public Services, the Court and the Downtown Development Authority will be covered at the meeting on May 20th. All the other departments will be covered at the meeting on May 12th.

* * * * *

Upon Motion of Commissioner Capello, Seconded by Commissioner Razor, and adopted unanimously, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk

The foregoing Minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 10, 2010, having been officially approved by the City Commission on Monday, May 17, 2010, are hereby signed this seventeenth day of May.

James B. Ellison, Mayor