

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 27, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 5:02 p.m., remotely via Zoom as well as onsite. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Ramirez, Markley, Johnson, and BPU Board Member Groneman. Commissioner Kane was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel; Karl Oakman, Police Chief; James Bain, Assistant Counsel; Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor, KCKPD Victim Services Unit; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication; Jeff Miles, Fleet Manager, Fleet Services; Vinnie Billaci, Manager, Street Division; Joe Barnes, Project Manager, Water Pollution Control; Diana Jimenez, Public Works Office Manager; Dave Reno, Public Works Community Engagement Officer; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor, KCKPD Victim Services Unit; and Terri Kimble, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely by Zoom as well as on-site.

All participants joining by phone should please mute your phones when you are not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing at home knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it's also our current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit questions by email prior to the meeting and those will be included in the record of the meeting. The public may also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the meeting. The public will also have an opportunity to provide brief comments either by phone or Zoom or from the 5th floor conference room tonight.

Chairman Bynum said I will now call the meeting of Public Works and Safety Standing Committee to order and would the Clerk please call the roll. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Bynum said we do not have any revisions on our agenda tonight.

Approval of standing committee minutes from April 25, 2022. **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Groneman, Markley Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 211736...GRANT: KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES VOCA FY2023

Synopsis: Authority to submit the fiscal year 2023 VOCA grant, submitted by Wendy Medina, Police Department. No matching funds are required.

VOCA FY 2022 PROGRAM BUDGET – INCOME

SOURCE	AMOUNT	STATUS	DATE
Unified Government of WyCo/KCK – Cash	Waived	Received	11/17/2022
Unified Government of WyCo/KCK – In-kind	Waived	Received	11/17/2022
VOCA-GOV	\$364,025	Received	11/17/2022
TOTAL	\$364,025		

DRAFT VOCA FY 2023 PROGRAM BUDGET – INCOME

SOURCE	AMOUNT	STATUS	DATE
Unified Government of WyCo/KCK – Cash	Waived		
Unified Government of WyCo/KCK – In-kind	Waived		
VOCA-GOV	\$361,340	To be Requested	
TOTAL	\$361,340		

PERCENT OF TIME DEDICATED BY PRIORITY AREA

Sexual Assault: 10%
 Domestic Violence: 45%
 Child Abuse: 10%
 Underserved Violent: 30%
 Underserved Non-Violent: 5%
 Medina (75% VOCA): SA = 20%, DV = 15%, CA = 10%, US = 55%
 Ontiveros (90% VOCA): SA = 10%, DV = 20%, CA = 10%, US = 60%
 Banks (90% VOCA): SA = 10%, DV = 40%, CA = 10%, US = 40%
 Espino (100% VOCA): SA = 10%, DV = 70%, CA = 10%, US = 10%
 Kennedy (100% VOCA): SA = 10%, DV = 70%, CA = 10%, US = 10%
 TBD (VOCA Match Hours): SA = 10%, DV = 10%, CA = 10%, US = 70%
 Intern Volunteers: SA = 10%, DV = 70%, CA = 10%, USV = 10%, USNV = 0%
 JCCC/KCKCC/Sisters of Charity Volunteer: SA = 10%, DV = 45%, CA = 10%, USV = 10%, USNV = 5%

Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor, KCKPD Victim Services Unit, said today, I am requesting permission to submit our application and then subsequently accept the VOCA Victims of Crime Act Grant for fiscal year 2023.

VOCA has funded our Victim Services Unit since our inception in 1999. Three full-time Victim Services Unit personnel are currently funded by VOCA at 75%, and two full-time positions

at our newer order of protection office are funded at 100%. If the Victim Services Unit is not able to receive VOCA funding, it would be reduced to only one Advocate which would significantly limit the services available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and survivors of homicide.

The current VOCA grant year provided us with \$364,025 in federal funds. The required match funds were waived for this fiscal year under VOCA Fix legislation due to the pandemic. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget draft, I'm requesting \$361,340 in federal/local funds. I've already received some notification from the Kansas Governor's Grants Office that we are anticipating another VOCA Fix legislation match waiver for the 2023 grant cycle; therefore, there is no match requirement from KCKPD in 2023.

One significant change in the budget is within the personnel line item. I have calculated a raise for a Response Advocate 2. She recently graduated with her bachelor's degree and her salary level would now be consistent with, for example, PFA Advocate 2, who currently possesses the same education level and similar experience.

This slight increase in personnel is offset by two main expenses. One is a decrease in our fringe due to the actual health plans that were chosen by the staff. They're significantly less than what we budgeted for last year since we had some open positions at the time of the grant application last year. Also, a decrease in the salary rate actually paid to PFA Advocate 1. That position had a larger budget due to being open at the time of the grant application last year. Then a lesser rate based on her education and experience was eventually offered. So, in 2023, our unit expects to be fully staffed with a Program Supervisor, myself, two Response Advocates, two Order Protection Advocates, one Lethality Assessment Coordinator, and one Administrative Assistant.

In summary, I am requesting a similar federal funding level as last year's, just a little bit less resulting in no additional funds from the Police Department than had already been committed.

Chairman Bynum said thank you very much. Are there questions from our committee?

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve.**

Commissioner Johnson said I have a question. So, these funds that we receive from the federal government, I know there's no way to be able to look out into the future, but this is something that we're going to be requesting for the duration as long as those funds are out there, I'm assuming.

Ms. Medina said correct. Since 1999, a Program Supervisor has stood before the commission as I have since 2019 and every single year. We send the same application [inaudible].

Commissioner Johnson asked, has there ever been any discussion about what happens if those funds are not available at some point?

Ms. Medina said yes. Our department is always trying to find other resources for the victim advocates and the victim services that we provide. So, for example, this past year [inaudible]. But, yes. We definitely seek additional sources should the VOCA Grant become unavailable one day. I hope it never happens.

Chairman Bynum said we have a motion and a second. I just have a quick comment. Kudos to you and your team for the match support for one thing. That's really helpful to the Unified Government, obviously to the Police Department. To your team for everything you do. I'm pretty sure it's another one of those jobs I don't want, so I really appreciate the work that you're doing in the community. And then to your team members who have expanded and completed higher education. So, send our congratulations to them on that as well.

We have a motion and a second on the item? I guess I should stop and ask our Clerk if we've had any comments from the public on the item. **Ms. Kimble** said no communication received.

Chairman Bynum asked, is there anyone here in person that would like to speak on the item? I do not see anyone coming forward. There is a motion and a second so please, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Groneman, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum, Markley.

Item No. 2 – 211741...RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS CITY BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Synopsis: A resolution authorizing the Unified Government Kansas City, Kansas Police Department to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners and Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, submitted by Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel, and Chief Oakman, KCK Police Department. The agreement, as submitted, has been reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's Office for compliance with K.S.A. 12-2904.

Officer Involved Critical Incident Interlocal Agreement

OICI | KCKPD and KCMOPD

Karl Oakman, Police Chief, said so, officer-involved critical incident. This is an agreement between KCKPD and the KCMO Police Department.

Goals:

- Transparency
- Reliability in OICI investigations
- Quick response times (proximity)
- Consistency with national best practices

One of the reasons for this is to, one, make sure that our Police Department is transparent. Then reliability in the officer-involved shooting investigations. Then quick response times. This would make us consistent with national best practices.

So, let me talk about just a second here on the reliability and investigations. In the past we've used, I believe it was probably two to three years ago where KCK had the I-70 shooting team. The purpose of that was to make sure that members of the KCK Police Department were not investigating their own members on police shootings. That group was made up of Topeka and some other jurisdictions. With the change in leadership in the Topeka Police Department, that fell apart, so Kansas City, Kansas, had to rely on investigating the shootings with their own detectives.

Johnson County has a police shooting team that just does all of Johnson County. We discussed joining that, but they were not interested in working with us on the police shooting team. Then the KBI, which was the fallback. The problem with the KBI is they're spread so thin throughout the state of Kansas, which the majority of police departments in the state of Kansas are rural departments. So, the KBI not only has to investigate police shootings, but just about every other major crime.

This is where we get to quick response times. On average, we were looking at anywhere from three to six hours for the KBI to be in place. As we know from best practices, even with Ferguson, leaving an individual on the street that long is very problematic. So that was another issue. Then, like I said, it's consistent with best practices where we're not investigating our own individuals.

KCMO, Highway Patrol now does theirs. That freed up KCMO's police shooting team who can respond quickly and investigate our shootings. KCMO would handle the whole investigation as well as the evidence. They would just be in contact with our DA. When working with FOP 4, the District Attorney's Office, and the Kansas State Attorney General, all three were in agreement. What I like to say is, if all three of those entities can agree, it must be a good idea.

I'll let Casey go into the legal issues with it.

Summary:

- Interstate compact KSA 12-2904 re police protection/public safety (KS Atty General approval); UG Board of Commissioners and Kansas City Missouri Police Board of Commissioners
 - Criminal investigation only – administrative investigation will still be handled by involved agency in accordance with their FOP MOU.
 - Investigating agency is the records/evidence custodian until case is reviewed by the DAs office of the involved agency jurisdiction
 - Involved agency will provide liaison for jurisdictional issues
 - Term – up to 10 years, but may be terminated by either party with 30 days notice
-

Casey Meyer, Chief Legal Counsel, said so, obviously, since KCMO is in Missouri, we had to accomplish this through an interstate compact. An interstate compact requires the State Attorney General's Office approval. I've already submitted that to the State Attorney General. They have approved it as far as complying with our state statute. This agreement also requires approval from our Unified Government Board of Commissioners and the Kansas City Missouri Police Board of Commissioners.

This agreement, as submitted to you, is the same one that is in front of them on the Missouri side this month. Like Chief said, FOP has already approved this.

A couple of things I want to note about how this will work. The process will be for criminal investigations only. Administrative investigations will be handled by the involved agency. We need to do that to comply with both FOP MOUs on both sides of the state. But, the responding agency, as Chief said, will be handling the full criminal investigation and will be handling the records and evidence during the pendency of the investigation as well as while it's being reviewed by the District Attorney. In addition, the involved agency—and just to be clear, when I say the involved agency, that would be the agency who has been involved in the officer involved critical incident—will have a liaison available just to help the responding agency with local jurisdictional issues.

The term currently, the agreement will be valid up to 10 years, but it can be terminated by either party within 30 days' notice.

Process:

- Legal has already submitted to the KS Atty General for review and approval. AG has approved the document as submitted.
 - Same agreement is also in front of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners this month.
 - Request UG Board of Commission Approval of Resolution.
 - If both governing bodies approve, then Agreement will be filed with the KS Secretary of State before it becomes active.
-

I've already covered all of this. What we are requesting is approval of the resolution authorizing the agreement.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, Chief and Casey. Appreciate the information. Are there questions?

Commissioner Johnson asked, Chief or Casey, is there any type of budgetary allotment tied to this agreement between either party?

Chief Oakman said well, that's the great thing about this. Due to the minimum number that we have each year, there is no financial cost to us. KCMO will handle it and that's why we're

doing the agreement. If for some reason they get in a bind with Highway Patrol can't respond, then we would be the next agency to respond to assist them.

Commissioner Ramirez said just for my knowledge, what's the difference between the criminal investigation and the administrative investigation? Why don't we handle them both?

Chief Oakman said basically, the criminal investigation is until you determine, like we do with all police involved shootings, that is technically a homicide investigation. Once it's determined if it was just justified, then it's submitted. It's a case that's being submitted to the prosecutor, then the prosecutor determines whether or not to file charges. The administrative is that on all police shootings that we have, or even criminal investigations, once they've been cleared through the prosecutor, we then do administrative investigations to make sure that there weren't any policy violations. For example, your shooting could have been justified but we could have noticed that you violated some department policies. So that's why we would do the administrative investigation.

Chairman Bynum asked, any other questions or comments?

Action: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.**

Chairman Bynum said we have a motion and a second on the item, and we'll take roll.

Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Groneman, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum, Markley.

Chairman Bynum said the motion carries. We thank you both so much for the work that you've put in. I think it'll be very important work for the community and will bring dividends. Really appreciate it. Thank you.

Item No. 3 – 211573...PRESENTATION: PUBLIC WORKS' QUARTERLY REPORT

Synopsis: The Public Works team will provide a quarterly update on culture, development, and division updates such as APWA accreditation, cost increases on projects and asphalt, street

preservation, and Waste Management challenges, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.



Jeff Miles, Fleet Manager, Fleet Services, said tonight, we're presenting our Public Works' quarterly update. This is our third one that we've presented starting back in 2021. Today we have presenting: Vinnie Billaci; Joe Barnes, Water Pollution Control; and Diana Jimenez, Public Works Office Manager.

The quarterly report, one of the things that we do definitely like to focus on is where we've been, where we're at today, and where we're going. We also have Dave Reno. Everybody knows Dave Reno. He's here for moral support as well as preparing us today to always make us shine. Also, we have Jeff Fisher sitting back with our team members, our Public Works Director. We appreciate that he trusts and empowers the Public Works team with these opportunities to present our work that we're very proud of. Most importantly, as you already mentioned, Commissioner, we have a lot of team members here in the back of the room that are here to not only see our presentation, but has participated in many of the successes that you're going to see in this presentation.

I'm going to go and hand it off to Joe. Joe's going to start off the presentation.



Joe Barnes, Project Manager, Water Pollution Control, said our first slide here is a new initiative for Public Works, which is to become accredited through APWA, American Public

Works Association. In the US, municipalities and city governments, only about 1% of departments are accredited with APWA. We've been challenged to become one of those top 1% by our leadership.

Last year, Jeff Fisher sent out an email seeking somebody to manage this program, this project, this initiative. There was a group of eight team members, team members from each division within our Public Works Department. We were selected to move forward and be accreditation managers.

As you can see from the photo on the slide, a couple of weeks ago we held an APWA accreditation kickoff event with all of Public Works Department. We went over the process of what is APWA. What are we in for? What are the benefits of this? It was well received. We had speakers from American Public Works Association. We had other municipalities show up and talk about how the process went, how it affected them, lessons learned, and the benefits their organization have seen.

Accreditation. What does that really mean for the Unified Government? It's really developing best practices, going through as an organization, as a department, as small workgroups, going through and talking about how do we do business. What do we do day to day? How can we be more efficient? How can we improve on what we currently do? Get those put down on paper and get those all sent in a centralized location and in a format that APWA recognizes.

We think some of the benefits going through this would just be our team members talking to each other, talking about how to do things. We're going to foster collaboration, team building, and communication. Public Works also has a lot of folks that are going to be retiring in the next one to five years, so getting that knowledge that's in their heads and putting it down on paper before they walk out the door. This is going to help staff provide succession planning to those next leaders in the organization.

This is a new endeavor for us. We don't know exactly how this is going to go, but our accreditation team thinks this is going to take between one and two years to fully implement.



Then the next slide is not a shocker to anybody, but we have cost increases. Everybody, not just UG Public Works, not just the UG as a whole, all of us as citizens of the United States are challenged with rising costs. Some of our projects are coming in 20-30% higher than they have in the past. What does that mean? We just wanted to get in front of you and let you know that we're trying to do the best we can and maximize the dollars that we have been allotted and really put those in the ground, or put those in the pavement, or put those into products that we're buying. We're trying to do the best that we really can, but know that projects may be a little bit smaller than they have in the past due to the prices that we're seeing.

Also, the availability of goods and materials. Our project durations may be pushed out. We may be waiting longer to get material on site to actually get things done. So, we just wanted to remind you that we are thinking about it, we are planning, and we are trying to do the best with the dollars that we've been given.



Vinnie Billaci Manager, Street Division, said we're constantly looking at ways to improve operations and create efficiencies. One way we've done that is earlier this month, we took possession of a new spray patcher. Basically, what this does is it carries dry rock, it carries asphalt emulsion; and you see the tube on the front there, it basically makes asphalt on the spot. Another way this helps is it's operated by one crew member opposed to a three or four-person patch team.

It can patch potholes in as little as two minutes, so really helps the Street Preservation Program as a whole.



Continuing with street maintenance. We all know the pavement condition index is continuing to decline across the city. With those declining, the maintenance cost is going to go up. Along with Joe, with the inflation, it's going to even be more profound, more potholes. We may need to add additional pothole trucks and additional staff to take care of those.



Diana Jimenez, Public Works Office Manager, said before we head into these next slides, I kind of want to talk about what continuous improvement means to our team. Over the previous four years, Public Works has committed to building a great culture, a culture that embraces change, that identifies challenges, and not accepting the status quo. With a great culture, we value developing leaders around us at all levels. Continuous improvement involves a constant evaluation of the way we do business and the way we serve our community. On the next slides are some examples of the culture in action.



Listed on here, the Street Division did a reorganization in 2019. They grouped like services into three functional groups to increase efficiencies. They also added the pothole patcher. Although the pothole patcher is a great thing for their department, as we all know, the street conditions continue to decline according to the data gathered over the last few years. As they continue to decline, Public Works will have to purchase more equipment.

The Engineering Division did start some fact sheets. That is a letter, and a fact sheet is sent out to neighborhoods when they have upcoming projects in their area. Although Engineering, the data collection, and Street Division are making improvements, they're not alone. The Fleet Division has improved cultures and have also made some changes.



The Fleet Services did start their Internal Service Fund. This fund actually helps with the culture of ownership. Each department takes better care of their vehicles and equipment and also reduces long-term costs.

In 2019, the Fleet Division did a reorganization in order to increase efficiencies. They did increase customer satisfaction and decreased vehicle downtime. Another program that they did implement was the Enterprise Vehicle Program. This actually helps the UG with their image, it helps with employee retention, helps with safety, and also creates revenue.

The last item on here is the online permitting system. This system was actually created by Jake and our asset management team in-house. This is a really great system. Not only can

customers go online and apply for a permit; they can also view the map on the website with any right-of-way projects in KCK.



In Public Works it is important to be great at what we do. In August of 2021, a small continuous improvement group was formed. This group began to think about what does Public Works look like five years from now. Ten years from now? What should we continue to do? What should we not be doing? That group has now grown this year up to 35 to 40 people.

Listed on here on the screen are some actionable items. The first one is increasing internal and external communication. How have we done that? A way that we've done the internal communication are the roundtables. We have two sessions a year with our team members. Then the external communication. An example would be the engineering fact sheets that are sent out to neighborhoods with upcoming projects.

The second one on here is the SOAR Program. What are the next steps? We do believe that this is a great program that should be continued. It probably is ready for that next step, but what does it look like?

The third one on here is to get out of the fueling business. I think the Fleet Services Division would admit that they're not great at doing that. They're reevaluating their involvement in this and maybe that can allow them to repurpose their time on something that they're great at.

The fourth one on here just came up a couple of weeks ago. Should we, in Public Works, group like services and also maybe restructure what Public Works looks like today? Giving these a few action items and some examples in the previous slides, Public Works has been and will continue to reevaluate everything that we do in order to become great.

Mr. Miles said we're just open for any questions, if you guys have any questions on the presentation or anything else going on in Public Works.

Commissioner Markley said I don't have any questions. I just want to say you guys are rock stars. You're using goal setting and analysis of your department in a way that we hope all of our departments will in the long term. You guys know I appreciate your use of data in your everyday lives as well; just appreciate what you're doing. I appreciate how Jeff has brought leadership up through the department in a way that we didn't have in the past as well, and I'm very appreciative of that. You did a great job tonight presenting everything you're working on. I know this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what you're working on. I appreciate your work. Appreciate all the times that you guys answer questions for me on behalf of constituents as well. You're doing a great job. Thanks so much.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you. I echo what Commissioner Markley said. Jeff and to your staff and your team, thank you for everything that you do. You guys are very persistent with us and continue to be persistent with us. We know not very many departments [inaudible] resources. But as we always said, our infrastructure is the most important part of what we do. If we don't have workable roads and bridges, we can't have economic development. We can't have people move in. Thank you for all that you do. As I said, keep that persistence up.

The one question I had; I think this might be for Jeff. We had a discussion, and we gave the green light about the needs-based budgeting for our CMIP. With the presentation that talks about increased costs, does that give you and your staff more flexibility to be able to deliver projects with a needs-based budget rather than what we've done in the past?

Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said it's a good question. I appreciate that. A needs-based budget certainly would help the Public Works Department meet the expectations of the community and the needs around infrastructure. I believe there's work going on internally with Finance and Budget and CAO and Public Works to figure out how we get there. I think that work is ongoing. As of a couple of hours ago, there was a discussion I was a part of. I think over the next in and ahead of Thursday's budget workshop, maybe there'll be additional discussion around that. Does that answer your question?

Commissioner Ramirez said yeah, thank you again. Thank you for all that you do.

Commissioner Johnson said, Jeff Fisher, first of all, I do appreciate, as already been said, that you're pushing your leaders forward. That's the kind of leadership style that I kind of see as the

proper way to do it. I think it empowers them and it prepares them to be their better selves. I also appreciate the way that you all graciously engage with this Commission. I know it's not easy to always deal with ten single-minded persons, but we appreciate the fact that you all keep coming back and graciously engaging with us.

I want to ask Christian's question a different way in terms of what's going on in terms of the economy. Thirty to thirty-five percent, when you put it in those kinds of numbers, it really kind of causes you to—we know that there's an increase, but when you put it into percentages and numbers, it really speaks to the way that I look at life. I'm going to ask if there are any additional projects, or are there any projects that were submitted on the current CMIP that are affected by these changes in the economy?

Mr. Fisher said I would say that anything, including the CMIP right now, is vulnerable, yes.

Commissioner Johnson said that's just the way we see. I'm assuming that is causing somewhat of a volatility in terms of how you look into the future three to five years out as well. **Mr. Fisher** said absolutely.

Commissioner Johnson said we're just—it seems like we try to make two or three steps forward and something comes and pulls us back a little bit. I would just say just make sure that we are continuing to understand that 30 to 35%—I would continue to say that to us to keep us on our heels to understand that these are the reasons why we may not be seeing some of the things that we've been anticipating to come in the near to mid-term future. I just want to put that out.

Mr. Fisher said okay.

Chairman Bynum said I guess I have comments that are probably questions and probably sound a lot like what you both were just saying. I'm, again, looking at the same slide with the cost increases. First of all, you have a slide that says two signal projects bid for 30% more than previous years. Do you mean traffic signals? Is that what you're referencing? **Mr. Fisher** said yes.

Chairman Bynum said then asphalt has increased just since the fall of '21; asphalt's up 35%. Then there was a comment made about, if we can't keep up, then we have more work for the spray patcher. That creates cost as well, but I guess I'm thinking, are you pennywise or pound foolish? Did I say that backward? I guess in my mind, and I'm speaking rhetorically for all of us, we need

to get the projects done, right? We need to get the roads resurfaced. I mean, in my mind, we need to spend the money so that we're not patching potholes all day long, if that makes any sense at all.

I feel like the Commission has heard the call maybe, finally and that we're trying very hard to get increases into this coming budget specifically for streets, bridges, infrastructure, streetlights, etc. Being really prudent with our expenditures, I feel like, makes us pennywise instead of pound foolish because we can't just have patching potholes be the best we can do is what I'm trying to spit out. I guess I'm seeing you nod in agreement. We want to help you as best we can.

We do appreciate all the time and investment you've made with us so that we understand the situation that we find ourselves in. It's frustrating to me that we've spent a lot of labor and capital on getting us to see the light. We're faced with this economic situation because the dollars that we give are just going to buy less than maybe what we had hoped they would. We do trust that you spend as efficiently as you can. We do believe that.

I just had, and anybody can answer this, but you were talking about your continuous improvement group and the roundtables and whatnot. It made me wonder if a commissioner were interested in a more involved level of participation in one of the ways that you are roundtabling or training, would you allow that? How could a commissioner be engaged more? I know we've spent a lot of time together so you may not want to see us much more often, but I mean I truly think some of us may want to keep learning and engaging. How would you go about allowing us to do that?

Ms. Jimenez said I can send you more information on it, give you the dates when we meet. Before the roundtables, we actually have a committee. I think last year we had one commissioner come out and kind of just heard what we talked about and some of the things that were discussed. I can send you that information.

Chairman Bynum said okay, is there ever pizza involved or a snack? I'm just kidding. Yeah, it's just salad.

Chairman Bynum asked, BPU Board Member Groneman, anything from you on anything you've heard?

BPU Board Member Groneman said I've just enjoyed listening and learning and hearing what's going on and being able to take it back, forward to staff any developments. The things I've heard

in the past, I think that BPU and the Public Works are working a lot closer together and I really appreciate that.

Mr. Fisher said thank you. As you can see, we have a lot of good teammates here tonight to represent our culture of continuous improvement. We appreciate them and being here tonight.

Chairman Bynum said we obviously are very pleased to have you and hear your updates and your planning. It's very important. Thank you all so very much for your time tonight.

That is, I believe, the last item on our Public Works and Safety agenda. Mr. Groneman, as always, we thank you for your time.

BPU Board Member Groneman said I might just say that at the BPU, we're feeling the same pain.

Adjourn:

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

bm