

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Present were: John H. Fisher, III, Chair; Betty Lou DeCroce, Marvin Reed, Robert F. Casey, Gary Passanante, Steven M. Cozza, Regina Egea.

The minutes of the June 3, 2010, meeting were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Dennis Smeltzer: More information will be going up on the web site. The web site hit counter has been fixed; it registers about 83 hits a day. The most downloaded item on the web site is the Medford Lakes police proposal – over 200 downloads.

Draft report on Minimum Force Size for Police Services. The optimum minimum police force size is 11 officers for 24/7 coverage. The FBI ratio for minimum police coverage is 2.7 officers/1,000 population, on average. Commission member stated that the report needs to be longer. For example emphasize the reason you need two officers. 24/7 a municipality needs either one officer with a backup or one officer with a firm inter-local backup agreement. Also, discuss Class I and Class II officers. It was mentioned that only summer resorts need Class I special police. Other municipalities can get by with Class II specials.

It was noted that the ratio for minimum police coverage cited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is 2.7 sworn officers per 1,000 population. This ratio is an observed average and not meant as a measure of appropriate force level. It is used in the paper for illustrative purposes. The Commission can perhaps use its own numbers trying to gather the information from the Uniform Crime Report. It was calculated that you need an 11 officer minimum for 24/7 coverage. The Commission would like the Executive Director to find out how many 11 man police departments are out there and what is their cost. The Executive Director will research this issue and include it in a redraft of the report. Further discussion centered on defining who the 11 officers are and adding that to the Report. For example, are any of these 11 officers specials? It was also suggested that costs of a police department are much more than just patrol – there are specialties. However, one of the commission members indicated that most 11 officer police departments do not have specialty services.

It was decided that in order to handle the confusion of special police the question that needs to be asked is how many of the police officers are full-time sworn officers. This will alleviate any confusion in the numbers in terms of specials being included and get to the real number. It was estimated that there are about 20 police departments with less than 11 officers. This information was obtained by one of the Commission Members doing a quick search on the computer. Finally, included in the Report, should be the mutual aid and backup agreements.

There are established ratios/formulas that can determine the optimum police department size – need a consultant to determine them.

Discussion of Shared Services Themes Draft Report began. There were 13 obstacles to Shared Services identified. LUARCC members were asked to read and comment on the list. It was stated that the Report is not a “road map” – it is good advice and hand holding. The members agreed to review the report and contact Mr. Casey with their comments and suggestions.

Report from the Process Subcommittee: LUARCC League Conference session will be in Room 313 at the Atlantic City Convention Center. There will be six tables. The League is anxious to have LUARCC at the Conference. Tables: Process: Robert F. Casey; Consolidation: Marvin Reed; Public Safety: Steven M. Cozza; Other Shared Services: John H. Fisher, III; Schools: Gary Passanante. Bill Dressel, the League Executive Director, wants a one page article for the League magazine.

The Walter Rand Institute's (WRI) Efforts: A scope of work was received by Gwen Harris, the Executive Director of WRI. The estimate of costs was requested and also the verification of Commissioner Casey's OTI work. WRI will use a proxy for consolidation: successful shared services examples. Hopes it can be done before the League Conference.

Legislative Issues: An e-mail was sent out with a list of legislative issues. A suggestion was made that for each month LUARCC should send out a letter discussing legislative changes that can help shared services. Commission passed a resolution to send two separate letters: one on law enforcement and the other on shared services to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly. Passed unanimously.

Long Term Planning: George Dredde, Assistant to BettyLou DeCroce, asked where LUARCC is going in the future and what are its priorities. It was suggested that a discussion of this should wait until after State Budget is passed. One of the Commission Members thought that LUARCC should perhaps make the substance of the two letters an interim report. Suggested that LUARCC should send an outline letter to the Governor about LUARCC's activities in September, 2010.

General discussion was on the need to fill the two LUARCC vacancies filled and discussion of a bill that would dissolve Teterboro and is now in the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 2939 and Senate Bill No. 2078 and know as the “Meadowlands Regionalization, Efficiency and Property Tax Relief Act of 2010.”

Public Discussion: John Fry said certain research information will be available on July 6.

Adjournment