

1 Mayor Town Hall/City Council Meeting
2 Providence City Office Building
3 164 North Gateway Drive
4 Providence UT 84332
5 August 4, 2018 8:00 AM
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7 **Note:** The Mayor Town Hall, while open to the public, is not generally considered an official city council
8 meeting. However, because a quorum of the City Council attended this meeting, it was noticed,
9 recorded, and minutes prepared in accordance with the open meetings act.

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11 Council Members in attendance:

12 John Drew, Kristina Eck, Dennis Giles, Brent Fresz, Roy Sneddon

13 Absent: Kirk Allen

14 Invited guests: Holly Daines, Mayor of Logan; Brad Hannig, Logan Fire Chief; Craig Buttars, Cache County
15 CEO; Rob Hammer, Cache County Fire Chief; Jay Downs, Smithfield Fire Chief and County CCEMS
16 Coordinator.
17

- 18 • Mayor Drew introduced the panel guests. He explained the topic for discussion was the contract
19 renewal with Logan City for emergency services. Mayor Drew gave a brief history. He reported
20 that late 2017 Logan City gave Providence City notice that the contract for fire services would
21 terminate December 2018. Shortly after Mayor Drew took office, he met with Mayor Holly
22 Daines and Chief Brad Hannig at which time Chief Hannig explained the population percentage
23 for Providence had increased from 2% to 12%, increasing the annual from approximately
24 \$77,000 to \$460,000. Since that time, Mayor Drew has talked with the various fire departments
25 throughout Cache County.
- 26 • Mayor Drew reviewed the attached handout.
- 27 • Chief Hannig explained the contract calculation.
- 28 • Chief Downs explained CCEMS.
- 29 • Chief Downs explained in Lewiston, first responders reach the scene and perform EMT services
30 while the ambulance comes from Smithfield, and if necessary paramedics from Logan.
- 31 • Chief Hannig explained a fire engine is not just for fires, it is a mobile paramedic vehicle.
- 32 • R Hammer explained Logan has a very efficient system. The staff does everything all the time.
- 33 • Chief Downs explained a paramedic vehicle is licensed by the state and certain equipment is
34 required.
- 35 • Mayor Daines explained they are having trouble keeping staff.
- 36 • Chief Hannig explained Logan City is in the process of getting their IOC rating changed. The
37 average response time is 6 minutes.
- 38 • Mayor Drew reported the calls to the assisted living center average about 14 a year.
- 39 • Chief Downs explained when not on a call, staff is working on training, pre-fire plans, and
40 preparing for the next call.
- 41 • Mayor Drew explained the EMS calls have increased more dramatically than fire calls. He felt
42 this was due to better building standards.
- 43 • Chief Hannig reviewed the pay structure. When he arrived, the entry-level firefighter wage was
44 \$37,000. There are also EMT, AEMT, and paramedic levels. A paramedic is 1400 hours more
45 training than an AEMT. Cache Valley is one of the lower paid areas. They do HAZMAT, tech
46 rescue, active shooter, etc.
- 47 • R Hammer explained most of the volunteers are EMT level.

- 1 • Jan Arnell felt residents would pay one way or the other. With volunteers, greater response time
2 may increase homeowner insurance premiums. Staying with the full-time fire, with experienced
3 staff may be worth the peace of mind.
- 4 • C Hannig explained the call to Abby Ln this morning was a 6-minute response time.
- 5 • Basic EMT training is just under \$1,000, advanced \$1,000, RCA (includes EMT) program \$5,000.
- 6 • Mayor Drew explained North Logan budget \$700,000 O&M budget for their fire department.
7 They have 5-6 fulltime firefighters but the rest are volunteer.
- 8 • Mayor Drew discussed Lewiston. He explained the community overall is volunteer oriented. All
9 but two of the volunteer fire staff live and work in Lewiston. Lewiston also uses a water truck.
10 They can also use the secondary irrigation water system. Lewiston does not transport.
- 11 • Mayor Drew reported Nibley has a line item budget for \$60,000 for first responder system.
12 However, they are not available from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- 13 • Mayor Daines explained Chief Hannig is a new set of eyes.
- 14 • Mayor Drew explained the current cost per resident in Providence for service from Logan is
15 about \$8.00.
- 16 • Chief Hannig explained Logan is paying \$73; with the proposed contract, Providence will be
17 paying \$64 because of reduced response time.
- 18 • Chief Hannig explained a 3% price increase per year is reasonable and fair.
- 19 • Cost estimates for a fire station and staffing were discussed. Chief Hannig explained the capital
20 costs building and equipment (excluding land) are estimated at \$1.5 million. Nine firefighters
21 would be needed using four per shift. The operating costs would be roughly \$900,000
22 Paramedics and ambulance transport would come out of Logan.
- 23 • Chief Hannig explained recruitment and retention is a very real challenge.
- 24 • Chief Downs explained the same thing is happening in the police department. The lowest paying
25 entity ends up being the “training facility” for higher paying entities.
- 26 • Chief Hammer discussed Cache County Fire District. Cache County fire district is made of 11
27 departments and contracted with Logan. Capital expenses are \$200,000+ annually to provide
28 equipment. With regards for a cooperation between Millville, Nibley, Providence, and County,
29 the County would be the management role.
- 30 • The dynamic of coverage when communities reach 7,000 – 10,000 people is a problem all over.
31 Systems work better when all parties equally participate. Right now Logan provides the bulk of
32 the coverage.
- 33 • Craig Buttars explained through the mutual aid agreements coverage has been possible to
34 maintain. He would like to see a combined fire and EMS service countywide.
- 35 • Chief Downs explained it is the community’s responsibility to provide fire coverage. EMS is
36 different. The ambulance coverage is licensed by the State. There are two licenses that
37 complement each other. There are inherent problems with volunteers. Studies show
38 communities of 7,000 people the community call volume of calls goes up for fire and EMS
39 services.
- 40 • Chief Hammer felt the County was hitting the “tipping point”. What we have done in the past is
41 not working; but we have to move forward.
- 42 • Chief Hannig explained all types of departments have challenges. He felt the efficiency is about
43 management, but it costs money.
- 44 • Chief Hammer explained response time, and cost benefit are part of the equation. The County
45 has about 240 volunteer firefighters. During the day, about 10% – 15% are available.
- 46 • Chief Hammer felt the population and call volume at 7,000 – 10,000 people justify a career fire
47 station.

- 1 • Cache County does not have any paramedics. Logan City has them (21).
- 2 • Chief Downs explained the initial call goes through the dispatch tree. Many times the end result
- 3 in a mental health call.
- 4 • Roy Sneddon felt the Providence citizens were trying to do the planning for the County. He felt
- 5 there needed to be a plan for the future from the County that we can evolve into.
- 6 • Mayor Drew felt housing costs had an impact on recruiting. If they cannot afford to live in
- 7 Providence and other Cache Valley communities, they cannot move here.
- 8 • R Sneddon felt we should participate financially in a planning forum that would integrate fire
- 9 and EMS County wide.
- 10 • Chief Hannig explained in 2012 Logan tried to have Providence build a fire station. The residents
- 11 did not want it in Providence. He felt discussions needed to continue regularly as growth
- 12 continues.
- 13 • Audience member felt the county, because all communities could get together, was inadequate.
- 14 He felt for now Logan was the only option.
- 15 • K Eck expressed appreciation to the panel members and to Logan City for their service.
- 16 • Mayor Drew discussed the tax increase and the impact it will have on residential property
- 17 owners.

18 Meeting closed at 10:00 AM

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20 Minutes prepared by Mindi Petersen.

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22 **Minutes Approved 08/14/2018**

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26 John Drew, Mayor

Skarlet Bankhead, City Recorder