

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
May 7, 2013

Pursuant to written notice, a Special Meeting of Council was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. in the Community Building.

Councilmembers present: Barnes, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.

Councilmember absent: Reynolds, Welsh.

Mayor Riley presided.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Councilmembers Reynolds and Welsh be excused from the meeting.

Mayor Riley, Police Chief Szeredy, and Police Executive Lieutenant Whitmer gave a slide presentation explaining the timeline and implementation of partnering with the Chagrin Valley Dispatch. They presented the proposed hours the Town Hall would have an Administrative Assistant on duty to handle resident's vacation check calls and other questions/concerns. Alarm monitoring would continue to be free of charge.

Hunting Valley Police David Maine spoke about Hunting Valley's experience with the Chagrin Valley Group which was all positive.

Mayor Riley gave reasons why Gates Mills is doing this, which includes future Federal and State Mandates (at least 2 dispatchers on duty at all times), the County's plan (consolidate 48 dispatch centers to 4 or 5), the cost savings for the village, and the improvement of services (mainly technological) to the residents.

A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked by residents:

Joan Gretter:

Where will the ambulance service come from? Ambulance service will be the same as it is now. It will still be under the control of Cleveland Clinic and provided by Mayfield Village. The hospital chosen will be made by the ambulance attendants, the patient, the needs of the patient, and the availability of the hospital. The fact that the dispatch service will be in a University Hospital building will have no effect on EMS.

What is the long-term plan for personnel at the Town Hall? The long-term plan is 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. week-days and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Charles Kreidinger:

How many communities are in the Chagrin Valley Dispatch? Gates Mills would be the ninth with the hope of adding more. When the number of communities increase, the cost to each community goes down.

Is this a partnership? It is a Council of Governments. Each community has one vote.
 How are the costs funded? Based on number of calls; Gates Mills will pay 17%. That percent could change especially as more communities join.
 Is there a vision as to how big Chagrin Valley Dispatch will become? It depends on the size of the community. There is room for 20 more the size of Gates Mills or 2 more the size of Euclid. There is physical room for 12 dispatchers at one time.
 Would it be more difficult to maintain personal contact with so many communities involved? Each dispatcher will be assigned to specific communities.
 What happens when the power supply at University Hospital goes down? There is a power backup on every piece of equipment plus there are generators. Dispatchers can also go to another community and sign in with their pass code; residents won't know the difference.

Karen Schneider:

Will communications by radio between communities be a problem? A couple years ago the Gates Mills Fire Department switched over to a statewide radio system which is the system the Chagrin Valley Dispatch uses. The Police Department is going to get the equipment during the conversion.

Nancy Sogg:

Can a community in the partnership request a higher level of service? Some communities in the group use reverse 911. Gates Mills will not. If that philosophy changes we can ask and pay. If there are too many variances the system could be chopped up and lose some of the quality of services. Because of the technology of the new dispatch some of the services will be better than what Gates Mills provides.

Lorelei Stein-Sapir:

If a change of service is requested, how is it decided if it will be provided? Does the majority rule? Each community has one vote. Chagrin Valley Dispatch receives ideas all the time and they are reviewed. An example is that Gates Mills provides house checks and several other communities do not. Gates Mills will continue to do so. The goal will be that residents will call Gates Mills Town Hall number so the call does not go through the Chagrin Valley Dispatch. That way the percentage of calls handled by Chagrin Valley Dispatch will be less and our share of the costs will be less.

Robert Reitman:

Will resident's emails be routed through Chagrin Valley Dispatch? They will come directly to Gates Mills for a while. There are future plans to use Chagrin Valley Dispatch.

Joel Barron:

He has appreciated having his alarm monitored by Gates Mills. Can't that service continue? If Gates Mills' system goes down there is no backup.
 Is the savings \$200,000? The first year it will be more. The first year savings are partially caused by not having to update Gates Mills' equipment.
 What will Gates Mills pay Chagrin Valley Dispatch? About \$143,000.
 Are there a couple opening for dispatchers at Chagrin Valley Dispatch? There will be one opening around August and another in November.

Will the pay be comparable? It will be an increase.

How much will the Gates Mills Administrative Assistants be paid? The final pay scale has not yet been determined. Other communities are being surveyed.

How many positions will Gates Mills have? There will be one full-time and one part-time.

George Hughes:

If you are changing radio frequencies, how will that affect the mutual aid? There are 2 systems – 420 and 800. Gates Mills police is currently on the 420 system along with the entire Hillcrest area. By enhancing the radios in the cars there will be radio communication with everyone around. Gates Mills will keep the 420 system to communicate with the Hillcrest area. Chagrin Valley Dispatch will monitor both systems.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, and unanimously carried, that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn Riley, Mayor