

RAYFORD ROAD MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
October 23, 2006

The Board of Directors ("Board") of Rayford Road Municipal Utility District ("District") met on October 23, 2006, at 230 Spring Hill Drive, Suite 325, Spring, Texas 77386, in accordance with the duly posted notice of the meeting, with a quorum of Directors present, as follows:

Danny E. Agans, President
Michael Smith, Vice President
Jon Vallery, Secretary

and the following absent:

Charles W. Venema, Director
Duane Burrell, Director

Also present were Constable Tim Holifield, Sergeant Jeff Brown, Mike Williams, Herman I. Little, Jr. and persons on the attached list.

1. Constable Tim Holifield presented a report on supplementary law enforcement services that are provided in the District by the Precinct 3 Constable. Constable Holifield reviewed tables and graphs that indicate the numbers of arrests and cases cleared in the District. There was a clearance rate of 57% in 2005 as compared to the national average of 33%. Constable Holifield stated that there are no investigators or detectives assigned to the District. The constable recently provided an incremental increase in traffic patrol in Section Nine to create more visibility of officer in that area. With regard to discussion of juvenile offenders, juveniles are children between ages 10 and 16. Under 10 years old a child will not be involved in the juvenile process. Persons age 17 and over can be considered to be criminally responsible as adults. There has been a big increase in juvenile referrals in the county.

Constable Holifield stated that concerns have been expressed about the law enforcement manpower in the District. The City of Shenandoah has a population of 2,500 and has 24 officers. Oak Ridge North has approximately 3,600 residents and has 14 officers. The District has approximately 8,500 residents and has only 5 officers. Constable Holifield stated that he has not had any new guidance from the Board in quite some time. If his office cannot serve the District satisfactorily, then he will step aside and allow the Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement service. The officers who work in Imperial Oaks make a big commitment to do the job, and if they cannot have assurance that they will remain in the area, then it will be impossible to find officers to work under the contract.

Director Vallery stated that there needs to be better communications with the constable. The District's concerns have not been met. The District wants to see more officers at high traffic time. The Board needs to know whether it will take more officers to be visible or if the same five officers can achieve higher visibility. The District wants to work with the

constable and to show the community that everyone is concerned about the traffic problems. Problems involve speeding and running stop signs, and the District wants to stop those violations.

Director Smith stated that after the Board had previously given directions to the officers, a deputy constable stated that the District should be careful about what it wished for and that there is only one section with a problem. The officer waived a stack of tickets and suggested that the officers could get back at the community. This was an inappropriate statement, and it is not acceptable for officers to maintain that attitude. The officers must feel like the District is picking on them. Director Smith suggested that the Board and the constable figure out what needs to be done and work together and use common sense to solve the problems. In response to a question by Constable Holifield, Director Smith stated that he did not call the constable or the sergeant at the time that incident happened. Constable Holifield stated that he needs to know about problems when they occur. The correct action is to contact him immediately and not wait until a board meeting. A board meeting with an audience is not the correct forum in which to address problems.

Director Agans stated that he feels that five officers are not enough to patrol the District. The District population reported by the constable is low. Director Agans stated his concern about how the traffic violations are being handled and how juvenile offenders are being handled. It is understood that the officers must use their discretion and that latitude is involved. Constable Holifield stated that the law prohibits setting quotas for law enforcement activities, and the constable can not mandate numbers for his staff. The District said to enforce the law, and the constable came out personally to expand presence in the community recently. The constable does not have the resources to do it on a permanent basis, however. Director Agans stated that according to Sergeant Brown, traffic stops result in tickets being issued approximately 24% of the time. People have been stopping recently since the word got, but it is not fair for the rest of the subdivision for the law enforcement to be concentrated in one place.

Director Agans stated that he has been told that there is not a problem with juveniles and that there is not a problem with gangs. Director Agans stated that he has seen this kind of behavior at his place of employment, and he is quite sure that there is a gang problem in the community and a serious drug problem associated with it. There are children on the streets at 1:00 to 2:00 a.m., and the officers need to pick up the children to process them. Constable Holifield stated that the juvenile center does not accept a Class C misdemeanor offender, and this is what a curfew violation is. It is not an option to send children to the juvenile center. It was mentioned that the sheriff also patrols in the area, but it was unknown as to how much time the sheriff's office spends in Imperial Oaks.

Constable Holifield stated that more officers are needed in the community, and he will obtain information on the national ratio of citizens to officers in urban areas. Constable Holifield then asked if the Board would consider having more officers. The directors stated that they would consider that proposal, but more information will be needed. There was a discussion of the level of staffing to achieve 24-hour law enforcement coverage. This type of coverage is not possible with 5 officers.

Constable Holifield stated that the officers' livelihoods depend upon the Board's satisfaction. The constable needs to know about problems immediately when they occur, and that is the reason for a law enforcement liaison on the Board. The Board needs to decide if the District is going to continue with the constable, and if so, then the Board and constable will need to decide what will be done by the officers. Constable Holifield recommended that the Board establish a partnership with other nearby communities to increase the presence of law enforcement officers in the overall area. It would also help to have a storefront office in the community at which the officers could prepare reports, eat lunch and use the restrooms. There was discussion of alternatives for offices, and Jeff Sorrells stated that the property owners association has space that could be made available for this purpose. There was further discussion of partnerships with other communities, and it was mentioned that the other communities near the District are not big enough to support the number of officers that are present in the District at this time. It was mentioned that a partnership alliance can help in the future and should be considered.

It was mentioned that all dispatch is handled through the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Director Vallery inquired as to how the response time could be improved. Constable Holifield stated that computers in the officers' vehicles show the number of calls and how many are holding and how long they have been holding. The constable suggested that the directors ride with a constable some time, and see how the system works.

Director Agans stated that the District needs an itemized list of what is needed for proper law enforcement in the District. The Board can then see what's needed and decide how to meet those needs. Director Agans emphasized that a proposal and specific information is needed from the constable. Constable Holifield stated that the need is for more personnel, and his office will give the District a list. An issue that will be addressed will be whether the Board wants areas of coverage or only 24/7 coverage. The Board stated that the areas of concern are for the coverage area, traffic issues and juvenile issues. The Board also wants to reduce the time that officers are out of the District.

Constable Holifield stated that he would like to have clear direction from the District board. Director Agans stated that the Board needs to know the constable's needs and the resources that will be required. Herman Little recommended that the Board take actions necessary to obtain local office space for the officers as the top immediate priority. The next priority would be to then have the constable to give a list of needs and resources for the Board to consider.

Candi Seaback stated that she has seen more officers in the neighborhood recently, and it has been good. There was a discussion of the number of cases and the clearance percentages in the District. It was suggested that the detective cases be referred to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, but it was mentioned that their work load is already too big. There was discussion of appropriate responses to gang issues, and Constable Holifield confirmed that a task force is working on the issue. Reserve officers are being used at the schools to work with school district officers. It is well known that when problems exist in the schools, the problems bleed over into the community. The gang task force shares information and works to avoid duplication of efforts among different agencies.

Director Agans stated that the Board believes that to get the job done, it is necessary to have proper resources. Sergeant Brown stated that the constable has been responding to problems in the over the past ten years, and progress is being made, but even more can be accomplished with more officers and support by the Board.

Jeff Sorrells inquired concerning the use of GPS equipment to identify hot spots in the District. He has been told that software is being developed by the constable to identify areas of concern. It was mentioned that signs can be installed in the District informing the public that the Precinct 3 Constable patrols the area. Director Smith described a recent incident involving two vehicles, but he did not have time to obtain descriptive information. Sergeant Brown stated that the constable should be called in any event, and an officer should be on the scene within four to seven minutes. It was mentioned that the constable has a drug dog that can be used when necessary. There was discussion of the District's need for more officers. Constable Holifield stated that he will provide the District with a proposal with several options. The proposal will be multifaceted. Director Agans stated that the District definitely wants an office in the District, and the Board wants a complete solution and not just a band-aid. Constable Holifield stated that a proposal will be submitted to the Board.

The Board then considered a proposal for amendment of the rules and regulations for the Imperial Oaks Park and Greenbelts and Imperial Oaks Ball Fields and amendment of fees for use of the District's recreational facilities. It was mentioned that the rules should be posted at several locations in the District. Mike Williams stated that most people are not aware of the rules. The Board reviewed a proposed revised application for special use form and revised rules for use of the park and recreational facilities. The Board requested modifications of the application form to make the \$20 restroom fee optional. The Board requested that a copy of the rules be made available on the internet for use by applicants since most applications are made over the internet. Herman Little advised the Board that upon approval of the amended rules, a notice will be published informing the public of the rules as amended. After further discussion, upon motion by Director Vallery, seconded by Director Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended Rules for Use of the Imperial Oaks Park and Recreation Facilities and the amended Application for Special Use Form, and the Board directed that a notice of the amendment be published as required by law.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary