

**City of Crescent Springs
Public Hearing Minutes
April 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

Those attending this meeting included the following:

Jim Collett, Mayor	Christie Arlinghaus, Council Member
Mike Daugherty, Council Member	Dale Ramsey, Council Member
Scott Santangelo, Council Member*	Tom Vergamini, Council Member
Matt Zeck, Council Member*	Joe Baker, City Attorney
Mike Jansing, Police Chief	Melanie Jones-Gant, City Clerk-Treasurer
George Ripberger, Public Works Director	

*Mr. Santangelo arrived at 7:04p.m. Mr. Zeck arrived at 7:12p.m.

Consolidation of Police Services with the City of Erlanger Comments

Mr. Jack Denham (Clareglen) indicated that he had served in law enforcement for 30 years in Northern Kentucky and is in favor of the merger because it will allow the police to specialize and have the change for advancement, increase training opportunities, provide a larger pool for covering the City at all times, allow a cost savings as the City budgets for a full time police department with the increase costs of health benefits, pension, equipment and payroll.

Mr. Jim Sweeney (Celestial Ct) feels the decision is supported by our police officers. He feels there will be short term cost benefits but he is concerned about the long term and unintended costs, and the question of a potential cost increase when the contract with Erlanger needs to be renewed.

Ms. Claire Moriconi (Western Reserve) is concerned with the long term costs. She asked if Crescent Springs would be a satellite office. The Mayor indicated that the office would be staffed by the officer in charge of the Crescent Springs district. Ms. Moriconi indicated that it should be a great opportunity for our police department, but she is concerned with the long term costs. She asked if the contract is for one year or two. The Mayor indicated that the contract is only in the preliminary stages, but there has been a proposed clause to allow for increase of five percent per year. The City would also sell its police equipment to Erlanger at an agreed upon price. This would be deducted from the contracted cost over a two year period. All current police officers would be absorbed into the new entity. Over time there would be some loss due to attrition and that cost savings would be split fifty-fifty. The approximate annual cost per officer is \$80,000. The combined force's optimum number is 41 officers and could be reached within the next two years. Ms. Moriconi asked if there was any opportunity to explore merger with Villa Hills or Fort Mitchell. The Mayor answered that the initial discussions included the Cities of Villa Hills, Crescent Springs and Erlanger. During the early discussions, the City of Villa Hills voiced the opinion that there was no advantage for them, and pulled out. No other cities were introduced. Ms. Moriconi asked if

there would be two officers on duty here with the Erlanger merger. Chief Jansing indicated yes. Ms. Moriconi asked what the new department would be called. Mr. Daugherty answered Erlanger Police Department. Mr. Santangelo indicated that Erlanger was sensitive to this issue and is contemplating updating their graphics to reflect serving both communities. The Mayor indicated that it was critical to maintain a police office in the City.

Chief Jansing reiterated that the initial conversation was how to have everything west of 275 and east of 75 consolidated into one department, with all police for all three cities to become the City of Erlanger police officers. Early in the discussions Villa Hills decided to withdraw. Chief Jansing explained that the day time population of Crescent Springs is around 10,000. There will be a police clerk on duty at least twenty hours a week for residents and businesses to be able to gain police reports at the Crescent Springs City Building. There will be two officers on duty 24-7 with the Crescent Springs District and a roaming supervisor on all shifts. Chief Jansing would not support the merger if he did not feel it was the best thing for the City. He believes it is a win-win situation: we will get a full time detective, and Erlanger will get a training officer.

Ms. Dawn Johnson (Harris Ave) asked how this will affect the seniority of our officers. Chief Jansing answered that under this proposal the officers would take any seniority they have with the City of Crescent Springs with them to Erlanger. Ms. Johnson asked specifically about the Chief's position. Chief Jansing answered that Chief Mark Fields will remain the Police Chief. Chief Jansing will enter as Captain which is their rank of Assistant Chief. Mr. Bill Hemmer (Crescent Point) asked about the health insurance, pay, and benefits for the police officers. Chief Jansing responded: The officers will get a raise and will not be paying for health insurance which they are doing currently. Chief Jansing indicated that the residents' input is very important to this process. Ms. Kathy Croley asked if this does not work down the road can we get our police department back. Chief Jansing answered this has been discussed several times and the answer almost certainly is no. He indicated that he knows of two other cities that might be interested in joining this process if we do consolidate, but there are advantages of being the first department taking the risk.

Mr. John Goering (Finance Chairman) reported that Erlanger has made a proposal to the City and it looks advantageous from a financial standpoint. We are ready to negotiate a final contract.

Mayor Tom Rouse of Erlanger reported that the City of Erlanger by June will be providing 911 Emergence Dispatch for every City along Dixie Highway from the top of the hill to the Boone Co. line. There is an economy of scale to save everyone money, and assured the audience that all the topics brought up today are being addresses. This is a pilot program for all of Northern Kentucky. With seventeen jurisdictions in Kenton County, he thinks this is a win-win for everyone: It lets the City of Erlanger do some things that they could not do without raising rates, and it will cost the City of Crescent Springs less over time. The City of Erlanger Council and Staff are all in favor of this. If this works there are more things that local governments can work together to save money to provide the same or better service.

Ms. Dawn Johnson noted that Erlanger has started charging for accidents on I-75, and asked if the residents of Crescent Springs be exempt from this charge. Chief Fields answered yes. Ms. Johnson asked if there was going to be a core of officers that come to Crescent Springs in the beginning.

Chief Fields answered that all the officers need to learn both cities, and in the beginning, you will see a lot of two-person cars where the officers will be teaching each other about each city.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

City Clerk

Mayor