

Wicomico County Council
Open Work Session Part 2
August 6, 2013

Work sessions require written minutes that reflect each item that the public body considered, the action that the public body took on each item and each vote that was recorded. **It should be noted that at work sessions, the Wicomico County Council does not take formal action, nor is a vote taken on any item discussed.**

Present: Matt Holloway, President; Bob Culver, Vice President; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Stevie Prettyman, Gail M. Bartkovich, John B. Hall and Joe Holloway.

In attendance: Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator; Edgar A. Baker, Jr., County Attorney; Captain Babe Wilson, Corporal Brian Donohoe, Mario Hernandez, Steve Roser, Internal Auditor and Melissa Holland, Recording Secretary.

RedSpeed Discussion:

Mr. Roser said the objectives are the audit was to understand RedSpeed and Internal Control assurance. The County Internal Control was satisfactory however for RedSpeed no opinion was offered. The goal of the cameras was to slow speeds in school zones.

Captain Wilson said the Sheriff's Office received a report from State Highway and the number of crashes in Wicomico County has decreased. He feels this program is successful.

Corporal Donohoe said the program runs from Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There is an internal test done every morning to test the equipment. A gentleman goes to the machine and makes sure that it has tested and was successful and then they begin on the tickets from the day before. If the image is not able to be read and there is rejection criteria based on RedSpeed. If the completion test is not successful the Sheriff's office contacts RedSpeed and if they can't figure out the problem they will not accept the whole day of tickets.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked where the decrease in behavior modification was most severe. Captain Wilson said that once a driver sees the vehicle they slow down which is helping with driver modification. Mr. Hernandez said they have even canceled tickets due to date issues such as a court date being scheduled on a weekend by mistake. He said there are rejection criteria which RedSpeed looks at in order to insure accuracy. Captain Wilson said there are no points with this system. Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked what the statement in the audit meant that said the system due to restrictive limitations it is not functioning to its maximum effectiveness. Captain Wilson explained that in certain areas and he used Salisbury Christian School as an example since the car is set for Parker Road the car can not be allowed to be placed on Outten Road. Residents are complaining that they would like the speed camera placed on Outten Road. He said that Wicomico High School is another example on how that camera can be moved around for more effectiveness. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if the Sheriff's Office wants the program expanded to which Captain Wilson said research has been done for the expansion and will be given to the Council at a later date.

Mr. Hall asked if the enforcement areas are located to which Captain Wilson said it was placed on the website in the beginning and the list of approved places is listed on the website. However, the Sheriff's office does not weekly announce there the speed cameras will be placed. Mr. Hernandez said that RedSpeed goes above and beyond the requirement to make sure that the tickets are accurate.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked if the expansion list was ready to give to the Council to which Captain Wilson said they are working on the research to bring back to the Executive and Council.

Mr. Culver and Mr. Joe Holloway said they will not support an expansion and Mr. Joe Holloway said he wished he did not vote for the cameras. Mr. Joe Holloway then questioned why a speed camera is on Hobbs Road by Salisbury School to which Captain Wilson said it is not only for the pedestrians but everyone traveling that road as well. He said there is a lot of vehicle traffic on the corner of that road.

Mr. Culver said he has a problem with the way the money was spent as it was spent on computers, K-9 and uniforms and does not see how that helped the kids. He feels that the money should have been spent on the kids and crossing guards. Captain Wilson said the money has to be spent on public safety.

Mrs. Prettyman said if the Council wants to discuss how the money is spent the Sheriff should be asked to attend a work session. She said she has had a good experience with RedSpeed. She feels the safety of the children is imperative and feels that the program is working.

Meeting adjourned.