

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Chair

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Darcy E. Sandefur, Township Clerk

CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2024

400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL, 61801

The Cunningham Township Board met in regular session Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Urbana City Council Chambers.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:

Chair: Mayor Diane Marlin

Township Clerk: Darcy E. Sandefur

Trustees: Maryalice Wu*, Christopher Evans, Jaya Kolisetty, Chaundra Bishop*, Grace Wilken, James Quisenberry

Supervisor: Danielle Chynoweth

Assessor: None

***Denotes present after roll**

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Trustee Hursey, Assessor Owona

OTHERS PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo; Seok Hyun Cho;

I. ROLL CALL

With a quorum present Chair Marlin called the meeting of the Cunningham Township Board to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 16, 2024 & February 12, 2024

Motion to approve by trustee Wilken and seconded by trustee Kolisetty.

Voice vote:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

VI. COMMITTEE TO VERIFY BILLS

a. Town Fund

b. General Assistance Fund

Supervisor Chynoweth shared the month to date expenditures including \$65,030.04 in the Town Fund, \$225,665.55 in the GA fund, and \$290,695.59 total.

Motion to approve the bills by Trustee Quisenberry and seconded by Trustee Kolisetty.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Supervisor Chynoweth shared the Supervisor Memo and reported on programmatic updates with totals for services rendered. Supervisor Chynoweth shared information about the Township's event held the day before, the Public Safety Forum #2 to review the City of Urbana's Berry Dunn report. Chynoweth submitted the attached summary of the breakout discussions for the public and the Board's records.

No report from the Assessor.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. T-2024-03-001R: A Resolution Authorizing the Supervisor Project Support Grant Agreement with Urbana Rotary for Solidarity Gardens Free Plot Program

Presented by Supervisor Chynoweth. Item authorizes the Supervisor to sign a project grant agreement with the Urbana Rotary to support the Solidarity Gardens Free Plot program. Motion to approve by trustee Wilken and seconded by trustee Evans.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Kolisetty, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

Decennial Committee

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Decennial Committee of the Cunningham Township was called to order during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on March 25th, 2024 at 6:44 pm by Chair Marlin. All officials marked present for the Township meeting were present.

2. Public Input:

There was no public input to the Decennial Committee.

3. Presentation of Findings

Supervisor Chynoweth invited Township Intern Ethan Garcia to present the compiled responses to the FOIA request the Township submitted to neighboring Townships to assist their Decennial Committees in self-assessment. The full presentation can be viewed here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10jDfVmZJRVomHT66O2eIMtxNFeIjvYMC/edit#slide=id.p1>

Garcia reviewed the summary of responses and noted that only 3 out of the 30 townships participated in the process and only 4 Townships assert to not have

General Assistance. Garcia and Chynoweth responded to questions on the summary and shared that the final presentation will be presented at the next Decennial Committee prior to being presented to the County Board.

With no further business before the Decennial Committee the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the body, Chair Wu adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Darcy Sandefur
Township Clerk

This meeting was taped and is [viewable on demand](#).

Minutes Approved: 05-20-2024

Summary of BerryDunn Public Safety Services Operational Review & Assessment • Mar. 24, 2024

The City of Urbana has a \$235,000 contract with consultant BerryDunn to conduct a Public Safety Assessment of Police and Fire. It has 4 phases - the first phase is 289 pages and was released March 13, 2024.

- 1** - Staffing Study Report for Police & Fire (Current Phase) **2** - Essential Calls for Service Report
3 - Proposed Alternative Response Plan **4** - Alternative Response Implementation Action Plan

Give your input: BerryDunn presents at Urbana City Council Meeting, Monday, March 25th at 7pm 400 S. Vine Street. Speak at the beginning of the meeting or email: CityCouncil@urbanaininois.us and ask "please read this into the record." Watch online: <https://urbanapublictelevision.org>.

Key Recommendations:

Although BerryDunn did not encounter any circumstances that produced critical/priority recommendations (p 16), they provide some significant recommendations. A few of note for Urbana Police Department (UPD) are to create:

1. A minimum patrol staffing level of 44 positions: adding 7 sworn and 7 non-sworn Community Service Responder (CSR) officers (46% increase in patrol staff). (p18)
2. A police & community working group to explore adding more "modern technology." (p20)
3. A non-sworn Community Service Responder (CSR) unit to assume some of the workload of sworn officers and to provide an alternative to sworn response to community service needs. (p21)

Police Budget (p 33)

- UPD Budget is 30% (\$13,308,905) of 2023 General Operating budget (\$42,730,065)
- UPD Budget has risen by 29.8% since 2019. By comparison, the General Operating Budget rose 24.83%

Urbana Police Staff:

- 74.5 total police positions budgeted in 2023 (p34)
 - 59 Police Officers
 - 17 Management level (Chief, Deputy, Lieutenants, Sergeants)
 - 30 Patrol Officers
 - 8 Detectives including 2 Street Crimes Task Force Detectives
 - 4 Misc: 2 School Resource Officers, 1 Behavioral Health Detective, 1 K-9
 - 15.5 Civilian Staff
- BerryDunn notes:
 - UPD has a higher % of administrators to staff than similar studied cities (p37)
 - UPD has a higher % of investigation staff than similar studied cities (p37)
 - UPD has a lower # of Calls for Service per First Responder than similar studied cities (p112)
 - There appears to be an opportunity to move duties currently performed by patrol to the investigation department as investigation has "strong availability" and patrol "is struggling to manage current obligated workload." (p137)

Calls for Service (CFS)

- The basis of the BerryDunn report is an analysis of community calls for service (CFS) also referred to as “obligated workload” and drives needs (p71)
- **What does the community call the police for? (p80)**
 - 64.6% are calls for services (non criminal) – using 66% of officer time
 - 32.7% are calls for crime – using 33% of officer time
 - 2.67% are calls related to traffic – using 1% officer time.
- Berry Dunn recommends the following breakdown of officer time: (p114)
 - 30% responding to calls for service/obligated workload (currently UPD use 39% of their time on this)
 - 30% paperwork (currently UPD staff use 39% on paperwork, although BD indicates paperwork times take longer than other studied communities on one report per shift). (p75)
 - 40% free time to pursue officer initiated activities
 - Past officer initiated engagements were 54.3% traffic, 39% service and 6.6% crime (p81)

Urbana CFS show a significant opportunity for Alternative Responses:

- **66% of officer time is used on calls for services (non criminal) in Urbana compared to similar studied cities where only 38.5% of officer time is used on service calls. (p82)**
- BerryDunn: “the largest driver of activity for UPD is related to non-criminal activity...[This is] why many community members... as well as many police leaders, are seeking alternative responses to community service needs that utilize resources—often less expensive and more specifically prepared for these types of calls—other than police to respond to community service needs.” (p81)
- BerryDunn: “alternative response options... might decrease the number of incidents and total hours that sworn police officers need to spend responding to community-initiated calls for service. The community has also expressed a desire to seek ways to support community service needs with responding resources other than armed police response. Additionally, the City and UPD have expressed a desire to analyze the nature of calls for service to which UPD responds and determine which ones are essential for police response. ” (p105)

Connecting the Dots: BerryDunn’s report recommends an increase of 14 personnel at Urbana Police Dept.

- This seems premature as 1) it is prior to an analysis of and recommendations for alternative responder models 2) Urbana has not constituted a stakeholder committee to gather input from community partners.
- There are concerns that this phase was timed to justify police increases in the FY25 Budget that will be voted on in June.
- This is a large, unprecedented increase in police personnel that will cost \$1+ Million more annually (Starting pay for patrol officer: \$72,000 salary a year with total cost ~\$100,000/year).
- BerryDunn’s recommendation is to greatly increase “officer initiated activities”-- the majority of which are traffic. Having officers increase traffic stops is concerning as there have been long standing racial disparities in traffic stops in Urbana. In 2022, 46.5% of traffic stops are of African Americans who make up 18% of the population (See Cha Jua’s “Traffic-stop report reveals escalating racism among police” NG, Oct. 15, 2023).

Do you think BerryDunn’s recommendation for more sworn officers is justifiable at this time?

What next steps would you like to see? We encourage you to get involved in the conversation.