



Public Health, Safety and Public Works Committee

April 29, 2026, Harvey Hearing Room, 4:30-5:50

Committee Members:

Paul Riordan, Vice Chair

Marty Finn

Suzanne Swope, Chair

Attendees:

Lt. Sarko Gergerian

Chief Goodwin

Director Meredith Hurley

Town Manager, Tony Marino

Guests:

Carl Eckstein

Jack Dowd

The Public Health, Safety, and Public Works Committee meeting focused on accountability and transparency in public services, with presentations from the Public Health Department and Police Department. The Public Health Director discussed their five strategic priorities including core services, public health and safety integration, and advancing social determinants of health, while highlighting challenges with fluctuating grant funding, particularly the loss of the Equitable Purchase to Public Safety Grant. The Police Department presented data on crime trends, staffing challenges, and various funding sources including the Urban Area Safety Initiative (UASI) program, which provides approximately \$400,000 annually for equipment and training. Key discussions centered around drug-related incidents, domestic violence statistics, and the department's community outreach programs including the CLEAR team initiative that connects officers with public health services for individuals in crisis. The conversation ended with discussions about performance metrics, community awareness of public health services, and the need for better communication about the department's achievements and initiatives.

One recommendation was to hold a Strategic Planning Session for Town Council to draft written goals and discuss current issues. Also, to have more Directors come before the Council and the public to share their, goals, improvements, concerns and future plans.