

ROSS TOWNSHIP
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES of MARCH 19, 2018

Present: Rob Blain, Jennifer Jeffrey, Gene McKay, Gary Moore, Wendy Somers

Absent: Christina Hutchins,

Visitors: Pete Crance, Harvey Beatty

Chairman McKay conducted the meeting

Big Picture of why the committee

1. More coverage/better response time
2. Higher visibility to community
3. Reduce costs

Past surveys by the Township

1. Road improvement
2. More police coverage

Other interested entities

1. Galesburg-Augusta Schools
2. Gull Lake Ministries
3. Michigan State Biological Station

Options

1. Not cost effective to start new
2. Possibility Richland, Barry County, Battle Creek Police, Augusta

Comments: **Crance** concerns that if meeting/group gets too big

McKay responded there would be a representation from each entity but the bottom line would be Ross Township first.

Moore spoke about Ross Township is the farthest point from the County Police Department. Ross Township contracts with the County and this does not give enough hours to fit the needs.

Crance and Harvey stated they are happy with their officers but not enough hours – wish for more but not to give up anything.

Somers expressed frustrations of coverage for their district

Moore expressed that visibility is what we want. Since the committee has been formed and have been talking about a police department Ross is now getting a report of

multiple pages from the Kalamazoo County Sherriff's Department. The increase with the report is what we haven't had previously.

Timeline for Committee:

Ross – 90 days prior to contract being up – October 1, 2018 must be able to notify KCSD.

Next meeting – each member should state where they sit in relation to going forward. It is necessary to go to Ross Township Board SOON!

Augusta Village is willing to look at it...want to help Township but not to the Village as a definite.

Village of Richland - are they supportive? Yes

Next Meeting: May 10, 2018 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

**Must have a recommendation to Ross Township Board by July.

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Wendy Somers