

ROSS TOWNSHIP
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of JUNE 7, 2018

Present: Rob Blain, Christina Hutchins, Jennifer Jeffrey, Karen Levene, Gene McKay, Gary Moore, Wendy Somers

Absent: None

Chairman McKay conducted the meeting

Motion to approve the Agenda by Blain, seconded by Hutchins; Motion Approved

Public Comments: Questioned if the marihuana issue goes through what impact would it have on any Federal Grants? Also if the Board of Trustees contacted the Sheriff's Department about the marihuana issue.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Village of Augusta declined to bid.

Moore spoke about the Ad Hoc; originally started to meet three (3) goals: 1) more coverage 2) higher visibility 3) reduce costs 4) began investigating have best to accomplish these goals.

Moore spoke to the two (2) Proposals received from the County and Richland. The Committee's focus is to be primarily on Ross Township and the three (3) goals.

Richland Proposal: Forty (40) hours which is \$20,000 less and also presented a sixty (60) or eighty (80) hour proposal for an increased cost; the department is closer and can give better/quicker response than the County; more community type policing; add hours as needed with cost changes.

Levene: favors Richland; the officers live in and have a vested interest in the community; their response time is much faster.

Somers: having two (2) officers gives more hourly coverage.

Hutchins: has had family issues and her experience with the Sheriff's Department; favors Chief Mattioli from Richland, with the Gull Lake threats is comforted knowing Chief Mattioli five (5) blocks away; had a need to call 911 on occasion and got no response; on the positive side has never heard Richland Police Department say no.

Jeffrey: for her business a quick response is needed.

Blain: interested in "product and quality" for dollars spent. Is there a concern with the relationship with the County and Richland? Is the \$124,800 for one (1) officer two and a half years ago how we decided to explore other options?

Somers: would there be flexibility to add hours down the road? (the answer is yes)

McKay: possible conflict of interest: family has a 250 year history with Augusta and the Mattioli family has purchased from me (McKay).

Levene: has a friendship with Chief Mattioli and knows his mien

Somers: has had a positive experience with Chief Mattioli.

Hutchins: my intention is to not beat up the County as the Sheriff's department is not responsible for "cruising" rather the jail system; would like local officers at local events.

Moore: police reports have improved since the Law Enforcement Committee was established. Shared information the history of when Ross Township had their own department—there was more policing, more coverage, more visibility. The department was disbanded shortly after the death of the Chief and went with the County for coverage. Geographically Ross Township is the farthest from the County Sheriff's Department.

McKay: as a committee the Board wants us to recommend a specific entity and level of coverage.

Moore: need a recommendation to move forward and look at a contract.

Motion made by Hutchins: to recommend establishing a contract with the Village of Richland. Seconded by Levene. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Hutchins: to recommend to Moore and the Board to enter into an agreement with an initial 1-2 year contract with the village of Richland. Seconded by Levene. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Hutchins: to recommend eighty (80) hours, if budget will allow. Seconded by Levene. Motion carried unanimously.

Somers: Should have measureable goals for coverage.

Blain: could Committee monitor how the new contract will be going...by having this a permanent committee?

McKay: we want our community to have great service. Between Richland and Ross – together we can better coverage and services for our residents.

Any Other Business:

Members Time: Next meeting: July 12, 2018 3:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Jeffrey. Seconded by Hutchins. Motion carried.

Committee adjourned

Submitted by:

Wendy Somers