

**Lamoille County Sheriff's Department
Budget Committee
March 10, 2016 Minutes**

Present: Roger Audet, Town of Hyde Park; Duncan Hasting, Town of Johnson; Belinda Clegg, Wolcott Selectboard

Absent: Nat Kinney, Town of Johnson; Bessie Martin, Town of Wolcott;

Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Hyde Park Town Administrator

Meeting opened by Duncan at 12:07 p.m.

Welcome and Agenda Review - No agenda changes.

Sheriff Funding Sources – The committee discussed how taxpayer resources are applied to the patrol services and if vacancies result in an adequate credit to the three towns, including how or if drug enforcement revenue is applied to patrol costs or acquisitions, such as the recent purchase of the Ring property on Main Street. The committee wondered if the current plan to perform some in-house patrol vehicle maintenance would be cost effective and how much that part of the budget would increase or decrease in the next few years.

Patrol Contract – The committee discussed topics to discuss with the Sheriff at a future meeting. The towns are seeing patrol services become a significant portion of their town budget, and holding the line on expenses would be a good topic. The towns appreciate the monthly reports and statistics, which allow residents to see the various services provided under the contract. The committee wondered if the towns could set 3 municipal goals, for example, that could be incorporated into the contract, such as setting minimum number of hours for foot patrols and speed control details. Another topic was controlling costs by reducing the number of hours of coverage or mixing in with on-call pay for overnight hours. The towns noted that Town Meeting 2015 resulted in no complaints from residents and very little discussion on the patrol costs, however, the Selectboard members still felt a need to better understand LCSD top priorities compared to the municipal priorities. This was a second topic to be discussed with the Sheriff in addition to the general funding sources question. Duncan noted that foot patrols in Johnson village have increased and have been appreciated by business owners. The committee expects LCSD would request a patrol contract be signed prior to July 1st.

Patrol Statistics – While the monthly reports show the past months activities, the committee wondered if some of the statistics could be used to set performance objectives and then monitored over time to verify that municipal priorities were being met. For example, could the contract specify so many business owner contacts per month (not the time spent, just the number of contacts made) or could the increase in costs for the detective position be related to a reducing number of open cases. The committee wondered if the patrol services could be broken down into reactive services and proactive services, especially with opiate and other drug impacts on the community. Directed patrol requests were discussed briefly and the committee wondered if it was better for them to be processed through town office or should residents also be allowed to seek directed patrols. The committee agreed that if there were any complaints regarding LCSD service, that town staff should refer residents directly to Roger Marcoux.

Minutes – Motion by Duncan to approve the February 4, 2016 minutes, as written. Seconded by Belinda. Voting: 3 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

Tentative Topics for Discussion with Sheriff –

- a. Discuss each expense line item in the patrol budget.
- b. Can municipal priorities be within an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) rather than the annual patrol contract?
- c. What is the LCSD drug response plan and can more resources be applied to that one issue than other existing issues, such as speed patrols or foot patrols?
- d. What are the department's patrol goals and top priorities now and in the future? How will LCSD achieve those goals and what impact is anticipated on town taxpayers?
- e. Can goals be met with a 20 hour per day schedule instead of 24/7?

Animal Control Ordinance and Animal Control Officer Protocol – The members briefly reviewed the 02-17-2016 drafts of both documents and Belinda agreed to send Wolcott comments to each member for review for more discussion in April.

Future agenda items – Wolcott has provided residents with a town survey that covered topics like patrol which provided residents with an opportunity to comment on town services. The committee would like to develop one survey for all three towns to be approved by the full Selectboard before distribution.

Next Meeting: The committee agreed to meet on Thursday, April 14th at noon in Hyde Park to develop a list of questions for Roger Marcoux that would be sent with an invitation to meet with the committee in May.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.