

**LCSD Police Patrol Committee  
- Mission Statement -  
(Johnson, Hyde Park and Wolcott)**

**Why form a Committee and Areas of Concern?**

The three towns are currently under contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for both patrol services and communication services (dispatch). The towns have been supportive of continuing the relationship with LCSD for many years. The communications contract is reviewed by a separate regional committee.

The towns receive monthly activity reports from LCSD and regularly review the current services provided under the LCSD patrol contract with citizens, individually or at meetings. The last review was conducted in 2012, resulting in the monthly activity reports being issued and a 2014 change to the protocol for large animal welfare cases. Three current areas of concern have been identified for this review and the Selectboards have agreed to designate a committee, made up of representatives from each of the three patrol contract towns, as the best method to evaluate patrol services. The Selectboards are seeking information and recommendations on existing police patrol services, costs and statistics to be better able to share that information with taxpayers.

After initial meetings between the three towns, LCSD will be asked to assign one or more representatives to assist the committee in completing its contract review. A preliminary report with any recommendations on contract amendments will be prepared for Selectboard review. After receiving comments from the Selectboard and the public, the Committee will prepare a final report for submission to each municipality and the Sheriff's Department.

The three committee goals:

- 1) Costs of Service – At approximately \$110 per capita (8,000 population), are taxpayers receiving a proper return on investment (ROI) compared to crime statistics, other communities costs for patrol services, level of community outreach and success in resolution of investigations. The committee should acquire status report on outstanding cases & an update on the detective position approved in 2013 by the voters in the three towns.
- 2) Level of Community Service – What is and what should be the minimum level of monthly directed patrols from the Selectboard? Are the LCSD priorities the same as or different than the towns regarding drug enforcement, speed patrols and issuance of citations versus warnings? Do we need one code enforcement officer for parking, zoning, rentals, health issues, etc. under LCSD supervision?
- 3) Patrol Contract for FY2017 – Is the existing patrol contract sufficient to achieve expected outcomes, and if not, what changes might the Selectboards consider for FY2017? Should the contract be for two-year periods or longer? Should patrol contracts with Morristown, Stowe, State Police be considered for only directed speed patrols and foot patrols (which is likely to result in reduced number of investigations for burglaries, etc. and possibly delayed 911 call responses).

**Membership – 6 Members; Terms equal to committee term:**

- One member from each of the three Selectboards. Terms end at end of committee work; anticipated to be less than 6 months from the date of the first meeting. All meetings are public and must be noticed with minutes published within 5 days of each meeting (Hyde Park will maintain minutes and then copy other two municipal clerks).

## **Staff & Other Support**

- One or more municipal staff members assigned by the Selectboards
- Lamoille County Planning Commission and/or Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Other police agencies, including Vermont State Police (if needed)
- Town Attorney (if needed)

## **Additional Questions or Points of Discussion**

- 1) Review current patrol costs, residents' perceptions & statistics regarding level of service – including number of hours on foot patrol, number of warnings versus citations, are the monthly reports sufficient and explore LCSD challenges to keeping long-term staff; including the disincentive to long-term employment caused by mandatory 30-years of service for retirement.
- 2) Discuss with LCSD how patrol services and investigations are conducted and what time constraints deputies are facing between the various patrol services provided; such as speed control, drug investigations, crime prevention, public outreach in general, and 'regular police work'.
- 3) Recommend patrol contract revisions, if any, by June 1, 2016.
- 4) If appropriate, explore alternatives to the current 24/7 patrol contract – what about 20 hours per day with on-call pay for the four hours (25% of regular rate), move to all contract hours for directed patrols for speed control and foot patrols, establishing a regional municipal department with Morrisville or just the three towns, or ending police services & relying on the limited services from VT State Police for such things as speed control (by contract). Note: VSP will provide coverage for major crimes (state pays for that service, no contract).

## **Proposed Action Items for Committee's first meeting:**

1. Committee agrees on Mission Statement and meeting schedule – ex. every two weeks or monthly; mornings, afternoons or evening meetings; one hour meetings or longer; group discussion or Chair to lead discussion. Suggestion: Start with three monthly meetings on first Wednesdays - starting Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 pm at Hyde Park Town Office, 344 Route 15 West (community meeting room, lower level, enter from State Park & Ride parking lot)
2. Establish public outreach methods to share information; such as Front Porch Forum, News & Citizen; manage an email list for anyone wanting minutes and agendas
3. For each meeting, assign tasks, if any, for committee members to work on prior to the next meeting.
4. Assign clerk for committee; responsible for public notices, distributing agendas and taking minutes.