

**Lamoille County Sheriff's Department
Budget Committee
August 11, 2016 Minutes**

Present: Roger Audet, Town of Hyde Park; Duncan Hasting & Brian Story, Town of Johnson;
Bessie Martin & Belinda Clegg, Town of Wolcott

Absent: Nat Kinney, Johnson

Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Hyde Park Town Administrator; Norma Andrews, LCSD; Capt. Eben
Merrill; Sgt. James Sawyer; Sheriff Roger Marcoux

Meeting opened by Roger Marcoux at 12:00 p.m.

Welcome and Agenda Review - No agenda changes.

Grants – Sgt. Sawyer reviewed data from the department's "Operation Safer Roads" grant program which provided \$4,500 in additional resources for overtime and directed patrols. Sgt. Sawyer explained that the goal was to educate drivers and not to simply write tickets. Sheriff Marcoux explained that the officers use discretion in writing tickets or issuing warnings. The towns asked that repeat offenders not continue to be issued warnings and that the department considers having a no tolerance policy for electronic device use while operating. Sheriff Marcoux agreed that his department would be focusing on more strict compliance and issuing tickets is a part of that. Sheriff Marcoux noted that currently he has a full staff and the town's concerns will be shared with all deputies. Sheriff Marcoux will continue pursue grants to fund special patrols and he will look into grants for additional solar speed/radar signs for problem areas.

New GPS / GIS Tracking System – Capt. Eben Merrill reviewed the July 2016 incident report which he corrected for GPS errors. Patrol incidents in July were Johnson-206, Hyde Park-144 and Wolcott-66. Capt. Merrill explained that the ability to track each patrol car in real time is helping him manage the patrol officers and ensure that the town's funding is being utilized effectively.

County Code Enforcement Officer – For future discussion in each of the three patrol towns, Ron Rodjenski handed out a brief discussion point memo and a draft job description for a new County Code Enforcement Officer position. The full-time position could also serve other county towns to reduce costs. The CEO would respond to complaints regarding local ordinance enforcement, such as trash burning, animal control, zoning, blighted buildings, town health officer issues, and other lower level enforcement issues that are not currently receiving a high level of attention by individual towns. A trained officer, preferable having "Level 2" certification, under the state's current training levels, would remove the risk of selective or sporadic enforcement, provide towns with prompt, reliable, and consistent service, versus having town office staff or volunteers fill in the needs of the town. Sheriff Marcoux offered that he would like to contact all 10 towns regarding this possibility and add a possible new second position that would focus on drug enforcement to better address the county's opiate situation.

LCSD FY2016 Actuals and FY2018 Budget – Norm Andrews presented the preliminary numbers from FY2016, which ended June 30, 2016, showed expenses and revenues on target with some ups and downs in various lines. Final numbers should be ready in a few weeks. Norm handed out the current version of a pay plan for patrol staff which provided 3% annual wage increases. Roger noted that more work would needed to be done.

Next Meeting: The committee agreed to meet on Thursday, September 8th at noon in Hyde Park at LCSD.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.