

**Lamoille County Sheriff's Department
Budget Committee
October 27, 2016 Minutes**

Present: Roger Audet, Town of Hyde Park; Belinda Clegg, Town of Wolcott; Nat Kinney, Town of Johnson

Absent: Norma Andrews, LCSD Finance

Others: Capt. Eben Merrill; Sheriff Roger Marcoux; Ron Rodjenski, Hyde Park Town Administrator; Brian Story, Johnson Town Administrator

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

Welcome and Agenda Review - No agenda changes.

FY2018 Patrol Budget – Sheriff Marcoux presented a draft patrol expense budget with a slight decrease from FY2017. The decrease helps reduce the assessment to the towns. The FY2017 assessments benefited from a one-time reduction due to a FY2016 surplus. No surplus is available to reduce FY2018 assessments in a similar manner, so even though the expense budget is flat, the assessments charged are still increased by about 3.9% in FY2018. Wolcott was concerned that the flat budget may not provide a consistent level of service, but Roger M. advised he has made it as tight as possible and he can work with this budget. Roger Audet said the proposed assessment and expense budget looked as good as it can be. Nat stated it looked good and Brian noted the Johnson Board would like to review the proposal again but the Sheriff did not need to attend another board meeting. Ron noted that the Sheriff is scheduled to review the proposed budget with the Hyde Park Selectboard on Nov 14th.

LCSD Patrol Services in Eden – Sheriff Marcoux noted that there have been 22 calls to Eden this year which is too many since they are not a part of the patrol contract or paying for services. LCSD will respond to life and injury calls if the primary police agency, the VT State Police, can not respond. The three towns agreed to work with the Sheriff on a joint Selectboard letter asking for time on the Eden Selectboard agenda to discuss providing some cost share in the future.

Animal Control Issues – Johnson is working on the final edits to the draft of the Animal Control Ordinance and then will seek legal review from the Municipal Assistance Center at VLCT. One final edit is how dogs that are deemed vicious in one town can be deemed immediately vicious in the next town – especially when the dog owner keeps moving the dog around from town to town. The three towns hope to adopt an ordinance that is similar to facilitate enforcement by LCSD.

County Code Enforcement Officer – The potential benefits of a designated code enforcement officer were discussed. The new position could support each town with local ordinance enforcement, speed patrol details, business outreach and relieve enforcement deputies of the sometimes time-consuming person-to-person education and welfare assistance that police are now providing more and more. Ron suggested that the best way to manage this type of position would be through LCSD under the Sheriff, possibly with a resident advisory committee to set forth priorities. Wolcott is on board to bring to a public vote in the same way the new detective position was proposed. Hyde Park and Johnson will discuss at November Selectboard meetings whether an article should be on the 2017 Town Meeting ballot or ask voters at a later time.

Next Meeting: The committee agreed to meet on **Thursday, December 8th** at noon at LCSD. Discussion will be on the Code Enforcement Officer and the Animal Control Ordinance. The Communications budget will be discussed on December 1st at 6:00 p.m. by the County Advisory Committee (at LCSD), just before the County side judge's budget meeting, which starts at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.