

Approved 7/24/19
JOINT MEETING
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
FREEDOM POLICE COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 12, 2019
6:30 p.m.
Freedom Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Town Board Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Chairman Charles Kramer, Supervisors: Brandon Conrad, Dave Rickert, Kevin Schuh and Jason Vandenberg.

Police Commission meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Chairman Matt Daul, Commissioners Jim Frederickson, Robert Schuh and Dan Clearwater.

Meeting Posted by the Clerk's office the 7th day of June at 4:30 p.m. on the 2 boards at the Town Hall, and on the Town Website.

2. INFORM POLICE COMMISSION ON REASON FOR HAVING SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Kramer turned the meeting over to Supv. Conrad who then explained to the Police Commission that residents had requested that he look into the costs involved if the County Sheriff's Dept would take over Police work in the Town of Freedom and the Town would disband the current Police Dept.

3. DISCUSS COST OF FREEDOM POLICE DEPT AND SERVICES PROVIDED

Supv. Conrad noted that the 2019 budget for the Police Dept. was \$288,735.00. Commissioner Clearwater stated that the Police Dept. currently has 2 full time and 1 part time officer. Commissioners stated that they had not had a chance to put the information together and were blindsided by this request.

Chief Nechodom noted that the Town has never wanted a full time Police Dept. and cannot provide all the resources that the County has but that the PD does work closely with Outagamie County as needed. He also noted that the Town officers do spend hours in the schools and on school related cases but that the school district should have a Liaison Officer. Nechodom stated that the school district has 5 towns who should be sharing in the cost and Town officers do not have jurisdiction outside of the Town of Freedom.

4. REVIEW PROPOSAL FROM OUTAGAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Captain Dietzen of the County Sheriff's Dept. gave a copy of a proposal to the Town Board and Police Commission and explained the contents. He also noted that there would be a second officer who would split time between the school and Town.

5. DISCUSS NEEDS OF FREEDOM SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Kurt Erickson and Maggie Gagnon, in discussing the concerns of the district, stated that the School District does not have a plan at this time to put an officer in the school and also noted that if not an officer it could be a social worker if the budget allows. Everything, they said, depends on the state budget.

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6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Karen Krejcie and Angie Griepentrog both questioned the number of hours in the school.

Gabrielle Radford questioned whether the County would be able to enforce the Ordinances of the Town (Yes) and how the money for tickets would be handled. She noted that the personal relationship that residents have with the members of the Police Dept. were an integral part of the community and there is more to this type of relationship than a dollar sign.

Jason Behnke noted that the County came with a plan prepared and questioned why the Police Dept. did not.

Jeff Green noted that he has a son with special needs and local officers, as well as the County officers, have always been there to help him.

Dave Vandenberg questioned whether the current County coverage will remain and he was told that the County would not charge extra for normal coverage.

Angie Griepentrog questioned what kind of coverage is recommended for a town the size of Freedom per FBI numbers. She was told 1 officer per 1000 people. Freedom has a population of 6057 currently.

Jim Meulemans questioned why the squad is taken out of Town. He was told that over the winter months there was no place to store it.

Darin Tiedt questioned whether the current officers would be offered some type of job placement with the County. He was told that they could apply for county jobs.

Wm. VandeWettering noted that local officers, along with the County officers, were instrumental in working with the VFW on the recent statewide Loyalty Day events and have in the past always made sure community events were taken care of.

7. ANY POSSIBLE ACTION TOWN BOARD SEES NECESSARY ON THIS ISSUE

A second meeting with the Police Commission was tentatively set for July 10, 2019.

8. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Robert Schuh with second by Commissioner Jim Frederickson to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

4 Yes 0 No MC

Motion by Supv. Conrad with second by Supv. Vandenberg to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

5 Yes 0 No MC

Barbara M. Seegers, Clerk