

Police Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2013

9:45 a.m.

Town Hall

Members Present: J. Auxer, L. Robertson, and D. Springer

Staff Present: Chief Ransom

Absent: W. Smith

1. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:41 AM and approval of agenda.
Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval December 2012 minutes as written.
Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson to approve the minutes of December 2012. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Visitors: Stacie Rohn, Pat Smith, John Brown
4. Mayor's Report:
 - a. Financial Reports
Stats –
D. Springer—they look normal.
5. New Business:
 - a. Teen Court Program—
Stacie Rohn spoke to this and stated that she is the Teen Court Coordinator. She presented a program (2 handouts); one for recruitment and another for parents. The program is for ages 11-18, for 1st time offenders for minor offenses such as destruction of property, shoplifting & disruption of the school process. The intention/process for the 1st time offender is they will go through the regular court system, and if they are a good for fit for ten court, then the judge will assign them there. The child and parent are referred to Stacie, then to teen court where they are assigned a juvenile as their "defense attorney". To fund the program, per the WV State Code, she is allowed to ask municipalities to donate \$5 maximum from each ticket/citation to go into the program.
Mayor – Asked Pat Smith what she thought about the program?
P. Smith – feels like it goes hand in hand with all of the other programs trying to help teens, and will eventually collaborate with each other. She likes it, thinks it's great.
L. Robertson – is \$5 the maximum?
S. Rohn – yes. Ransom, and the City of Charles Town have signed on for a year.
Mayor – he has been in the prison system for 41 years, and he's tired of seeing young people coming through for minor offenses. It's like parents want the prison system to raise their kids.

D. Springer – yes, you’d see that in the military too.

S. Rohn – it’s one more layer for us to try to intervene.

L. Robertson – loves the idea. We should do it for a year?

S. Rohn – that would be great. Also, has a request. Can the Chief be on the Advisory Council? He is a great resource, and is connected with the kids in town and S.U. She then showed the Committee the Operations manual.

Chief – yes.

Mayor – this will take a process to approve fully. We must discuss this in public meetings.

D. Springer – is there a down side?

S. Rohn – the one concern that has come up is if peers are judging other peers-can it lead to bullying? To prevent this, we can pull kids from other schools, like a change of venue. They will be asked if they know each other. We don’t want kids to feel ostracized.

Mayor – thanks for coming.

L. Robertson – how do kids join the teen court?

S. Rohn – they can join at school, they will have to sign a confidentiality form, and do an essay.

Motion made by I. Robertson to recommend the approval of the Teen Court Program to Town Council. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Jefferson County Youth Reporting Center –

P. Smith spoke to this and stated that this center has been functional since October 24, 2012. They take adjudicated kids. Most are homebound, have their GED’s, some have gone to school in different programs. The center picks them up and takes them to Ranson. It’s a state paid non-profit. She handed out a brochure. It targets 11-18 year olds. They have a case manager, several counselors, and to date there are 15 kids in the program. Most of the kids are low functioning in reading and math; there are older kids that help tutor the younger kids. What the center is missing is recreational things. They get them out to basketball games, but they are looking to get a pool table. It will promote better social skills. Many of these kids parents are pretty rough shape themselves; crime, drugs, etc. Chief – are officers stopping by to interact with the kids?

P. Smith – oh yes, lots of them. We also have organizations like MADD, the military, etc. come by. It’s best to keep the kids active. They are learning how to cook too. Many come and don’t want to leave.

Chief – are they acting out?

P. Smith – no, if they do there are sanctions as punishment. All kids once in the program must finish it. They are treated fairly while there. We would like to get a pool table. We have two estimates; Wal-Mart is \$279, and Dicks is \$329. She prefers Dicks.

Mayor – we can make a recommendation.

L. Robertson – do the kids get rough?

P. Smith – no – zero tolerance.

Motion made by D. Springer to recommend for approval the allocation for no more than \$350 for a games table for the Jefferson County Reporting Youth Center. Motion carried unanimously.

P. Smith –Thank you so much.

6. Old Business:

a. Camera Placement near Town Run at Jefferson Security -

L. Robertson mentioned that she saw papers in the run on Saturday.

Chief – the paper boxes should be moved to another location.

b. Purchase of AED Defibrillator – information forthcoming -

This is pending. D. Springer suggested checking with B. Schill since he has dealt with restrictions, etc.

c. Discussion of creating an Auxiliary Program

Chief Ransom stated that he really wants to do this so he can tap into volunteers to help direct traffic. He is summarizing another jurisdictions guidelines.

Mayor – we need to check with the insurance company for training, and we need a formal document for them to sign re: liability.

D. Springer – is there a standard practice you (chief) can access, maybe check with the municipal league?

d. Mayor – how's it going with the radar sign at the Day Care?

Chief – really good, has been sitting there in the morning.

Mayor – let's leave it there until the end of the month. Sees that the texting signs are up.

D. Springer – let's look in the minutes for the next placement-thinks it's Washington Street.

7. Misc

a. Probationary period for new officers to be raised from the current 6 months to one year.

b. Amend the military coverage from the current 60 days to 30 days.

b. Discussion when hiring new officers to offer an incentive of them working for three years under contract if we pay for Police Certification.

Motion made by D. Springer, Second by L. Robertson to adjourn at 10:29AM. Motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Lori Robertson**