

Police Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 15, 2009
9:45 AM
Town Hall

Members Present: J. Auxer, L. Robertson, S. Wallace

Staff Present: Acting Chief - Tim Johnson

Visitors: None

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:50 AM and approval of agenda:
Motion made by L. Robertson, Second by S. Wallace. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval of December 18, 2008 Police Committee Minutes as written.
Motion by L. Robertson, Second by S. Wallace. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Visitors – None

4. Mayor's Report.

A) Chief of Police vacancy - hiring process.

The Chief of Police position has been advertised in The Journal, Chronicle, Spirit, Winchester Star, Morning Herald and the Chief of Police Association. This was sent out Jan. 12, 2009 and the deadline is 2/17/2009. The incoming chief must be certified and the resumes will be gone over at the 2/19/2009 police committee meeting. The committee will screen the applicants and conduct interviews so the Town Council can act in April on the committee's recommendation. The Mayor handed out a copy of the ad which is included in the minutes.

The Mayor also handed out a copy of the Responsibilities of the chief. S. Wallace suggested under item #3 we add "Shepherdstown University and the County Sheriffs Department." This was agreed upon and also included in the minutes.

S. Wallace also suggested we should include more public input regarding the new chief. The Mayor stated we had advertised for input and any comments or suggestions received will be considered.

B) Update on hiring additional officer.

Officer James Cummings was sworn in at the 1/13/09 Town Council meeting. We currently have three officers and the need for a fourth officer was discussed. Officer Fleagle's wife is due to deliver their first baby any day and he will be taking a few days off which will cut the staff to two. The committee discussed and agreed for the need to advertise for the additional officer which also allows us to get a new base of applicants.

5. Chief's Report -

A) Financial Reports - Report available, no discussion.

6. New Business:

A) Court Costs -

The Mayor and Acting Chief, Tim Johnson stated that one charging document can handle two charges. Currently, the charge has been \$60 for one or two charges. We discussed changing the court costs per charging document to \$120 when there are two charges per ticket. The court takes \$48 per charge and the committee agreed to increase the amount.

7. Old Business:

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.

C) 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 S. Wallace, Second by L. Robertson to adjourn at 10:27 AM.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Robertson