

Police Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2009
9:45 AM --- Town Hall

Members Present: J. Auxer, L. Robertson, S. Wallace,
Absent-W. Smith

Staff Present: Acting Chief – Tim Johnson

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Auxer at 9:53 AM and approval of agenda.
Motion made by S. Wallace, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval of February 17, 2009 Police Committee Minutes as written. S. Wallace noted that item 4-C needed to be amended to state “The installation of the parking meters is going from New Street – up to – Back Alley”.
Motion made by S. Wallace to approve the minutes with the above change, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Visitors – Frank Welsh
4. Mayor’s Report:
 - A) Chief of Police Vacancy – interviews scheduled for April 2, 2009 @ 6 PM.
 - B) Update on hiring additional officer.
Mayor Auxer states the position has been advertised with a cut off date of April 3, 2009. He also states that we have received some good applicants for the FT position. We will go over all of the applicants in our regular April meeting.
Chief Johnson states there has been an increase in gun use in town and on campus. He states Wednesday nights are one reason as Stone wall’s attracts people from out of town.
 - C) Status of parking meter installation.
F. Welsh states that Church Street is complete and N. King Street will get done as soon as construction is over. Chief Johnson stated that all meters have batteries in them when asked by Mayor Auxer. Meters will be placed on Mill Street; however, it was discussed that the homes on either end will need a Residential designation as neither home has a driveway. Will need to go to the Finance Committee.

Motion by S. Wallace to place meters on Mill Street subject to approval from the Finance Committee regarding cost, Second by L. Robertson. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chief's Report.

A) Financial Reports.

S. Wallace noted that our expenses run more than our revenue. Mayor Auxer stated that we are not out of line with most departments. He stated most counties have 50% of their budget going to the police department and we aren't anywhere near that.

6. New Business.

A) Increasing boot fine from \$50 to \$100

This has been done and a notice of the change was sent to The Chronicle and The Picket.

B) Parking meters on Mill Street Meters will be placed on Mill Street; however, it was discussed that the homes on either end will need a Residential designation as neither home has a driveway

7. Old Business

A) "Pooper Scooper" Ordinance

We discussed the different ordinances in front of us and decided Berkeley County had the best one. A police officer will need to catch the offender or a homeowner, etc. can snap a picture of the offense to enforce the ordinance. Chief Johnson will check with the county to see if the following fines are consistent. If so, the ordinance will be run by the town's attorney.

"Owners of dogs which are permitted to leave waste on public or private property not his or her own should immediately remove and discard the waste. Owners who do not remove such waste from public or private property not owned or leased by them are guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$50.00 or more than \$150.00, upon conviction. Any dog which deposits waste on public or private property, which is not property owned or leased by the owner of the dog, is subject to seizure."

"All dogs seized and impounded as provided in this ordinance shall be housed and fed in the county pound for a period of 5 days after notice of seizure and impounding shall be given or posted as required."

Seizing dog and delivery to pound.....\$42.00

Serving or posting notice to owner.....\$3.00
Housing and feeding dog per day.....\$5.00

“All persons paying pound fees to the animal wardens shall be given a receipt for the total sum collected. Such receipt shall be signed and dated by the animal warden collecting the pound fees. If any person does not pay the fees and costs assessed within 30 days of the assessment, the Town may institute legal proceedings for collection of the same, including all fess and costs expended in the collection effort.”

Once the town attorney approves the ordinance it will become part of Shepherdstown’s Leash Law.

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

C) Amend the military coverage from the current 60 days to 30 days.

D) 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 10:25 AM.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Robertson