

Town of Montville
Montville Law Enforcement Feasibility Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, June 9, 2015
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall — Room 203

1. Call to Order
Chairman Pike called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present were Jeff Buebendorf (6:35 p.m.), Bill Bucko, Joe dePasquale (6:32), Robert Giffen, Victor Lenda, Tim May, and Wills Pike. Also present was Lt. Leonard Bunnell.
4. Presentations – *none*
5. Alterations to the Agenda – *none*
6. Approval of the
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Motion made by Mr. Giffen, seconded by Mr. Bucko. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Remarks from the public relating to matters on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Final review of the Police Budget
Mr. Giffen stated that the revised budget includes the recent approval by the Town Council for the two (2) additional Officers for 2016. Additional savings for the transition may be gained from adjusting the overlap period between the Resident State Trooper and Police Chief positions. The total cost difference of establishing an independent Police Department (2016 vs. 2018), excluding any capital non-recurring costs, is approximately \$213,000.00. It is important to note that the projected budget also includes any contractual increases, benefits, and pensions that would be unrelated to the transition.

In addition, due to ongoing negotiations, dispatching continues to be an unknown part of the equation. Their report will make note of the requirement, as mandated by law, for the dispatching unit to be under the helm of the Police Chief and supervised by a sworn officer.

To remedy a discrepancy on the Staffing Proposal, it was proposed to change the following:
2017: Masters: Officers: ~~8.00~~ 7.00
 - b. Final review of the *Analysis of Advantages/Disadvantages*
Mr. Buebendorf distributed a revised *Analysis of Advantages/Disadvantages*

The following changes were proposed:

Funds/Costs, Independent Police Force (IPF), Disadvantages:

— ~~\$ _____ cost differential between RST and IPF (between 2015 and 2018 budgets)~~ Requirement to hire two additional sworn officers at approximately \$100,000, plus benefits/pension costs

Review of Non-Recurring Costs for IPF

The following changes were proposed:

Delete Line 7 regarding the Chief of Police and Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bucko expressed his discomfort with the low cost estimate of the impound lot, stating that, based on several bids received for the Public Safety Building, the impound lot was estimated to cost an average of approximately \$100,000.00. In response, it was remarked that very few vehicles are housed in an impound lot or secured facility at one time and would primarily house those vehicles involved in fatal accidents and homicides. The costs of the impound total approximately \$20,000.00 (\$5,000.00 for security cameras and \$10,000.00 for fencing)

Other non-recurring costs include booking system software, annual maintenance, camera; electronic fingerprinting machine, per Federal and State requirements; detention area monitors, and; the Town radio upgrade. The total estimated non-recurring cost for the transition would be approximately \$231,000.00.

Lt. Bunnell noted that the Town radio upgrade would be required whether the Town opts to establish an IPF or stay with the Resident State Trooper (RST) Program. The question is primarily the timing. Should the Town opt to establish an IPF, the need would be immediate, but, should the Town opt to stay with the RST Program, the need would not be as critical or urgent and should be upgraded within five (5) years.

c. Review of the narrative to be included in Committee presentation

Chairman Pike stated that Mr. Giffen and himself will be meeting with Marcia Vlaun and Colleen Bezanson from the Planning Department to discuss the cover letter, executive summary, report, and presentation. They plan to send the first draft of the final report to the Committee prior to their next meeting.

9. New Business – *none*

10 Remarks from the Public with a three-minute limit – *none*

Lt. Bunnell stated that he has drafted a policy for the current dispatching department to deal with existing problems. Should an IPF be approved, the policy will need to be revised. He added that the Town's Police Department's Rules and Regulations are being utilized as a model for many fledgling constabularies throughout the State and the Committee's report may serve the same purpose.

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11. Remarks from the Committee Members

Mr. Buebendorf and Mr. Giffen will send their revised documents to Chairman Pike by Thursday, June 11.

Councilor May reiterated the need to note that the final cost of the RST Program remains unknown, depending upon the approval of the State budget.

12 Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Giffen, seconded by Commissioner dePasquale, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville