

Joint Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Chuck Ellsworth at 6:30 p.m.

Members present on roll call: Dave Sarow, Corby Stark, Jim Duncan, Brian Kammerud, Chuck Ellsworth

Others present: Police Chief Eric Jorgenson, Village of Milltown Police Officers, Village of Milltown Board Members and Village of Milltown Clerk-Treasurer Amy Albrecht

Public Comments: Representatives from the Milltown Board requested information from the Joint Board of Police Commissioners such as the Balsam Lake- Centuria Intergovernmental Joint Police Department Agreement, 2022 budget information, salary of officers, details of equipment the Joint Police Department may have in hopes of doing a case study to see if the Village of Milltown wishes to join the Joint Police Department. Representatives from the Village of Milltown also asked if the budget was based on mill rates per municipality and President Chuck Ellsworth communicated that the budgets were not based on mill rates rather, they are contributions from the Centuria and Balsam Lake Village Boards. Police Chief Shaun Thayer, of the Village of Milltown, expressed he ran some calculations with Police Chief Eric Jorgensen and if the Village of Milltown were to join the Joint Police Department the communities could have 24-hour coverage, more officers staffed, more equipment and would be a cost savings to the Village of Milltown and potentially the Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Department. Commissioner Dave Sarow asked Chief Shaun Thayer and the Village of Milltown representatives why they did not join the Joint Police Department when first asked three years ago. Chief Shaun Thayer noted that he had just started with the department for the Village of Milltown and at the time they were not interested in combining police departments. Commissioner Dave Sarow also asked why the Village of Milltown wants to join the commission now. Chief Shaun Thayer reported that the Village of Milltown is experiencing high rates of turnover for officers and are short staffed. With other communities offering higher wages, the new officers stay long enough to complete their training and transfer out. Chief Shaun Thayer stated the estimated training cost per officer is \$5,000 making it a drastic loss to their budget. Chief Shaun Thayer also reported that the three communities geographically make sense to combine departments and it would be a significant cost savings for the Village of Milltown. Chief Thayer noted one of the current officers is a part of the union and asked how that would work if that officer were to join the Joint Department. President Chuck Ellsworth stated there is no current union membership offered but stated it could be reviewed if the Village of Milltown is interested in joining the Joint Police Department. The Commissioners all noted it was a large amount of time and work in creating the current Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Department. Paperwork, working with the state, hiring staff, and laying the framework for how the Commission works was not something that happened over night. President Chuck Ellsworth stated that if the Village of Milltown were to join the Joint Commission that their full Village Board would not make decisions on behalf of the Commission rather two board members from each community and one member at large make up the Board of Commissioners and there would be no administration needs as that would run through the Village of Balsam Lake. The main role the Village of Milltown Board would have would be reviewing the requested budget annually and issuing checks to the Joint Police Commission. All other police business would take place at the Commission Meetings held quarterly. Furthermore, if the Village of Milltown were to join the Joint Police Department, there is no guarantee their current officers would be hired as under the new commission, officers would have to go through the hiring process and there would only be one Chief for the Department. President Chuck Ellsworth also stated that after the Village of Milltown has time to review the information given and wishes to move forward in discussing joining the Joint Police Department two members of their Village Board would be invited to come to the next Commission Meeting in May, 2022.

To consider and possibly act to approve general and payroll vouchers. **Motion by Jim Duncan to approve all general and payroll vouchers. Second by Dave Sarow. All in Favor. Carried.**

Review the 2021 Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Commission financial statements from audit. The audit documents were reviewed by the Commissioners.

Discussion on interest from Milltown Police Department to join the Police Department. Commissioners discussed the sustainability of the Police Department moving forward if the Village of Milltown were to join the Department. They also stated higher coverage on main highways such as highway 35. More discussion will take place at the next Commissioners meeting if the Village of Milltown expresses interest in joining the Joint Police Department.

Discussion and possible action regarding adding funeral leave to Departments Salary and Benefit Policy. **Motion by Jim Duncan to add into the Departments Salary and Benefit Policy: In the event of a death of an employee's spouse the employer shall grant such employee five (5) days off with full pay, in the event the employee attends the funeral. In the event of a death of an employee's children, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, or any relative residing with the employee in the same house, the employer shall grant such employee three (3) days off with full pay, in the event the employee attends the funeral. In the event of a death where the employee is serving as a pallbearer, the employer shall grant such employee one (one) day off with full pay, in the event the employee attends the funeral. Second by Dave Sarow. On Roll Call: Brian Kammerud, yes; Corby Stark, yes; Dave Sarow, yes; Jim Duncan, yes; Chuck Ellsworth, yes. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action regarding adding health insurance breakdown table to the Departments Salary and Benefit Policy. **Motion by Dave Sarow to add the insurance breakdown table to the Department Salary and Benefit Policy reading: The Commission provides eligible full-time employees with a health insurance plan. The Commission currently pays eight seven.four (87.4) percent of the premium for the lowest cost health insurance plan offered. The employee pays twelve.six (12.6) percent of the premium through a payroll deduction. The Commission may revisit the percentage of employer contribution on an annual basis and reserves the right to adjust the amount from time to time. Second by Jim Duncan. All in Favor. Carried.**

Recap of Officer & Chief Trainings. Chief Jorgensen and Officer Any Yang attended a conference in the Dells and both noted how beneficial the training was. Officer Austin Reed will be attending a training on Internet Crimes Against Children coming up in April. Officers are required to attain 24 hour of continual education annually and Chief Jorgensen noted everyone in the department attains 80-100 hours annually each year. Austin Reed will be setting some Hunter Safety and Boater Safety Courses for 2022 and will have more information available at the next Commission Meeting. Chief Jorgensen noted it has been a very busy first quarter of the year. The Department, during the year of 2021, investigated a total of 42 incidents. Currently for 2022 the Department has recorded 20 incidents along with the normal ticketing and everyday tasks.

Announcements: It was noted by Jim Duncan that the State of Wisconsin will be issuing grants to each Police Department in the state and the Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Department could be receiving a \$7,000 grant this year.

Next Commissioners Meeting: Monday May 16th, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Centuria Village Hall

Motion to adjourn by Jim Duncan. Seconded by Brian Kammerud. Carried. 8:15 p.m.

Lori Duncan, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Amy VanDeBrake, Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer