

Temple-Greenville Police Joint Board

Minutes of the Public Meeting

May 1 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Carla Mary, of Greenville. Also attending were Doug Reardon of Greenville, Gail Cromwell and Bill Ezell of Temple, and Chief McTague.

A motion by G. Cromwell, seconded by C. Mary to accept the minutes of the April 3, 2017 meeting as written was passed.

BUDGET:

C. Mary inquired about the overtime budget being depleted. Chief McTague explained that with the recent graduation of Officer Mike Heikkila from the Police Academy, overtime use would be reduced. He further stated the he interchangeably uses the part time and overtime budgets as staffing allows, and that the part time line item is looking good.

G. Cromwell inquired about the insurance line items that were paid at lower amounts than were budgeted. Elizabeth will ask Tara Sousa to explain these items.

G. Cromwell also inquired about which 2016 line items had changed during the audit, increasing Temple's portion by approximately \$1,200.00. Elizabeth will ask Tara Sousa for an explanation of this as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

At 5:03, the board signed a three year contract with Officer Mike Heikkila, stipulating that if he leaves the department within 3 years, he will pay back the cost of his training.

G. Cromwell asked how we compete with Amherst PD, who recently advertised for new officers at a higher rate than T-GPD's salaries. Chief McTague explained that

many departments, including Amherst, Bedford, and Merrimack have significantly higher pay scales, but that some officers prefer to work in smaller towns.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

2018 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

The board first established that each town would like to move forward with contract negotiations.

C. Mary stated that Greenville had no requests for changes to the current contract, unless Temple would like to take over administration duties, in order to provide T-GPD employees the deferred compensation package that is available to Temple employees.

C. Mary requested that Chief McTague conduct two community events per year, per town, and provide a plan to do so at an upcoming meeting. She did not want this to be included in the contract. Various ideas were considered, including bike safety, Emergency Services Day, as was coordinated with the Temple Fire Department in the past, and held at Temple Elementary School, and “Coffee with the Chief” type events. Chief McTague stated that he would consider the various options and get back to the board with a plan.

C. Mary stated that Greenville residents have made it clear that they wish for the department to continue as is. B. Ezell stated that the merger has worked well for a long time.

Chief McTague stated that even if the towns don’t always agree, that it is financially beneficial to both towns to continue joint police coverage. C. Mary responded that many residents enjoy the spirit of cooperative coverage, and the fact that it is a unique situation in the state, aside from the cost advantages.

G. Cromwell stated that Temple needs to take a closer look at costs before making a final determination.

D. Reardon stated that the Greenville Select board has no intention of discontinuing the merger at this time.

B. Ezell stated that his feeling is that Temple residents are happy with the merger, and will wish to continue it as well.

G. Cromwell stated that she thinks a 3 year term would be a good idea. C. Mary agreed, adding that this would give a feeling of stability to the Chief.

NEW BUSINESS:

G. Cromwell presented a proposed bill regarding Accident Report copies, and asked Chief McTague to explain the changes. Chief McTague reported that within the past few months, the state passed a bill that disallows local departments from releasing, and charging for motor vehicle accident reports. He stated that the state wished to collect the money, and use it to fund the Fire Academy. The proposed bill would allow local departments to go start releasing reports again.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief McTague reported that as expected, calls for service for vehicle noise and minor criminal mischief had increased with the arrival of warmer weather.

He reported that Officer Mike Heikkila has graduated from the Police Academy, and is back on duty full time. Chief McTague informed the board that he has two potential part time candidates "in the pipeline", and is hoping to have them appointed in June, so that they can do a bit of field training before attending the upcoming Part Time Academy later in the summer.

There was a discussion of drug activity in Greenville. The newer, more dangerous drug Carfentanil, has not been seen yet, but officers are aware of it.

Now that spring has arrived, and the snow has melted, the radar cart will soon be put to use.

At 5:25, a motion by C. Mary, seconded by G. Cromwell, to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on June 5, at 5:00 PM in Temple.

These minutes were prepared by Elizabeth J. Maxcy-Humphrey