

Temple-Greenville Police Joint Board

Minutes of the Public Meeting

November 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman George Willard. Attending the meeting were Carla Mary of Greenville, Gail Cromwell of Temple and Chief McTague.

At 6:01, a motion by G. Cromwell, seconded by C. Mary to accept the October 3, 2016 minutes as written was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief McTague reports that he spoke with Will Wildes, who assured him that the electrical work at the station will be completed by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief McTague reported that he had suspended all details. Overdue bills from Asplundh have caused the detail revolving fund to be depleted.

C. Mary asked if the details had to be suspended. The chief responded that he felt that they should be suspended until the account was solvent. He stated that the department needs to keep better track of the balance, and that new procedures had been implemented to ensure this. C. Mary explained that the account is in the red, with the Greenville general fund floating the negative balance.

Elizabeth suggested adding a line into the 2017 and T-GPD budget, so that any future deficit balances could be floated jointly. It is rare for this to be an issue, but it could happen again, if multiple companies are working at the same time for long periods of time.

C. Mary stated that she did not wish to pursue using the detail budget to offset other line items in the budget, as discussed at a previous meeting.

The department anticipates payments totaling \$15,400.00 will be received by the end of November.

C. Mary brought up concerns for the towns' liability and officers having adequate time off between shifts, and asked the chief if he had anything in place. Chief McTague said he tries to ensure that officers have nine hours between shifts. Based on that, it was agreed to have the chief monitor that situation.

G. Cromwell inquired if the jump in Liability premiums was connected to the increase in detail hours. It appears that the increase in 2016 was due to an error in allocating the Police Liability portion of the policy to the Police Department.

Chief McTague informed the board of new regulations for signage for traffic details. Larger signs are now required. He is working with Greenville Road agent Tom Plourde to purchase new signs, which will cost approximately \$175.00.

2016 BUDGET:

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The department is on track to have a substantial budget surplus for the 2016 year, due to not having a full time officer until later in the year. The department requested that 2 new desktop computers be purchased from this surplus, to upgrade the database system.

At 6:19, a motion by C. Mary, seconded by G. Willard to approve the purchase of two desktop computers for the police department, for a total of \$1,939.96, was passed unanimously. A purchase order was signed.

At 6:22, a motion by C. Mary, seconded by G. Cromwell to expend up to \$1,500.00 to replace the carpet in the station was passed unanimously. A purchase order was signed.

The department requested to upgrade printers, but expects that the cost per item will be low enough not to require a purchase order. Upcoming Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals may be available.

2017 BUDGET:

G. Cromwell voiced concern over the increase in General Liability Insurance. A combination of a full year of coverage (2016 was budgeted for 6 months only, in order to change the effective date to match the fiscal year.) and the aforementioned error in allocating costs to the department were cited as reasons for the large increase. G. Cromwell requested a further break out of the costs.

Chief McTague presented a detailed wage study of surrounding towns, as well as towns of similar size. He pointed out that T-GPD wages had slipped significantly below the comparison towns. He voiced concern that wages will continue to slide into the hole with the proposed 2% wage increase. He requested a 5% increase for all T-GPD employees to bring pay closer to the comparison towns. He stated that we have an experienced, well trained and professional staff, and would like wages to reflect that.

G. Cromwell stated that the 5% increase was only \$10,000 more than the 2% increase. She stated concern for the difficulty of explaining an increase for one department to other employees. C. Mary agreed that this would be difficult.

C. Mary stated that while she had hoped to finalize the budget tonight, that she didn't feel comfortable approving a wage increase above 2% without input from D. Reardon, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Chief McTague additionally asked that the vacation allowance be amended to include 5 weeks after 20 years, and 6 weeks after 25 years. Currently, the Greenville policy has a maximum vacation time of 4 weeks.

G. Cromwell appreciated the thoroughness of the wage study, which was completed by Vicki Moylan.

The board decided to discuss wages and vacation time at the December meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

These Minutes were prepared by E. Maxcy-Humphrey

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Chief McTague informed the board that there had been three hurdles since the September meeting.

Halloween was uneventful in both towns. No criminal mischief was reported.

The large party on the North End of Temple was also uneventful. Parking on the road was the only problem noted, and the host cooperated quickly to resolve the issue.

The department covered the Tuesday elections in both towns, with the Chief and Sergeant switching off between towns throughout the day and evening. No problems were noted.

At 6:54, a motion by G. Willard, seconded by G. Cromwell to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on December 5th, at 6:00 PM in the Greenville meeting room.