

Meeting of the Public Safety Committee January 12, 2004

Attending: Mike McAlevey, Paul Verrell, Fred Fay, Dave Benton, Don Drew, John Raymond, Mike Hayes, Bob Fay, Kevin Nelson (ACO/Constable), Eric Herrle (Selectman).

7:05 PM Quorum Established, Meeting Begins.
Committee members and visitors introductions.

Nominations for chairman and vice chairman as past chairperson McHugh had resigned committee membership.

Mike McAlevey nominated for chair, Paul Verrell nominated for vice chair.

Call for vote. Mike McAlevey voted in as chair unanimously
Paul Verrell voted in as vice chair unanimously.

Paul Verrell will take meeting minutes and provide a report.

Hearing of Delegations:

Kevin Nelson provided a detailed report of the activities and services he had provided for the past year January 2003 to December 31, 2003 with numbers and types of calls and mileage in the performance of his duties. Kevin also stated that Ed Brann has not been available since last may due to health reasons, and that there is no part time ACO at this time. It was mentioned that the town is currently advertising for a part time ACO.

Kevin stated that he had handled 627 calls for service and traveled 12,826 miles. He spent 145 hours in court and transported 110 animals to the shelter. He stated he has enforced the dog licensing laws. He issued 7 day notices to animal owners that failed to re-register their animal. He issued 326 said notices pursuant to state law.

Kevin stated that his workload has increased quite a lot since he began as a part time ACO and then into full time ACO/Janitor position. Kevin states that all monies from fines and fees come back into the town.

Paul Verrell gives a detailed account of monies relating to appropriations and monies appropriated for animal control activities and monies saved for the town by ACO Nelson,s programs activities and performance from 1995 to 2003. It is estimated that the Animal Control Officer has saved the town approximately 30,000 dollars since 2000. The calls for service from the animal control officer have increased approximately 200 calls per year since 2000.

Mike states that with the permission of the committee they will extend to

department heads when they come to visit us, (fire, rescue, Kevin (ACO)) to be encouraged to attend meetings and speak although they are not voting members, but are important members to this committee as far as their input whether we agree or disagree with them.

Mike explains a committee charge from the board of selectmen, which he passed out and members signed and returned to him.

Eric explain that public safety encompasses a whole range of issues, that there are a lot of issues coming up such as public health, transfer station issues, that he would like to see a member of this committee attend meetings of other committees such as planning board in reference to the new school and when issues encompass public safety. Eric states that there will be a number of issues that will come before this committee.

Mike Hayes asks if these situations will be brought before the committee or if we are to make recommendations or what are we set out to do here. Eric responds by stating that he would be welcoming any recommendations. It is generally understood that the public safety will act upon charges from the selectmen or if the committee see something and investigates it, that it also can be sent to the selectmen as a recommendation.

Eric states that if we see something regarding public safety that we should bring if forward.

Eric states that he would like to see town council meetings as a breeding place for ideas, talk about problems, make each other aware of other committees work and issues and to better facilitate communication, so that we are all to be on the same page and working for the betterment of Waterboro and its citizens.

Mike states that all members on the committee should bring up agenda items and to contact Pam or himself to put items on the agenda that they would like to talk about. Mike feels that no committee member be prohibited from placing an item on the agenda.

Mike also suggests that members of this committee set in on other committees to become aware of what they do, to advise or assist them as they can or make suggestions to public safety issues or refer them to this committee and that this should be done on a volunteer basis as their individual schedules will allow.

Mike also states that members of other committee are welcome to attend the public safety committees as well.

Selectmen's request ref. Vehicle for ACO:

Eric states that much discussion of a vehicle for ACO. That an ACO putting 110

animals in his vehicle is a lot to ask of a person.

Eric's motion was for a vehicle for ACO use as well as others such as CEO or Road Commissioner.

Eric states that his limit of 15,000 dollars for this vehicle was only a suggestion and that it could be any amount.

Eric states that he wants an opinion and a recommendation from public safety on a vehicle for ACO/Others to use.

Bob Fay states he does not feel a vehicle should be shared by others as ACO gets calls all hours of day and night. Bob states that we should put a vehicle before the people to vote on for the ACO exclusively.

Much discussion ensues regarding a vehicle and its uses. It is understood that a money article deadline exists of January 23, 2003. Much discussion ensues regarding different ways and places to secure a vehicle.

Motion made to obtain a vehicle for the use of the ACO exclusively
Motion made by Paul Verrell seconded by Don Drew.
Vote passed unanimously.

More discussion over the vehicle ensues to justify the vehicle. Work load has increased since Chauncey Gerry, Paul Verrell and Kevin Nelson have taken on the job of ACO.

Motion by Mike M that Public Safety Committee research and recommend the best possible information in terms of how to secure the vehicle where it be by State Auction, Lease or Outright Purchase of vehicle, to the selectmen.
John seconded the motion.
Vote on motion. Passes unanimously.

Motion

Bob Fay suggests that this item go into town meeting article or referendum at discretion of selectmen, for the ACO exclusively. Seconded Mike M
Vote: Passes unanimously.

Eric states that a policy on use of municipal vehicles be undertaken at some point.

Mike asks for volunteers to work on a sub committee to work with Kevin Nelson and report back to committee on information regarding this vehicle.

Sub committee members include Dave Benton Fred Fay, Paul Verrell and Kevin and will be an agenda item for next meeting.

Mike M suggests that for the next meeting we consider asking selectmen to make department heads part of this committee as adjunct members. He also states that as we discuss the different issues that it would be fair for these department head be present for information and to open the lines of communications. That it would not be fair to discuss these issues without them being present. That they would not be able to vote but would be encouraged to join in the discussions and for the committee to hear what they have to say whether we agree or not.

Meeting Dates & Times:

It was decided to adopt meeting nights on the second Monday of each month.

It was agreed to have each committee member think about and bring to the next meeting, ideas and goals for the committee to work on for the ensuing year 2004. At that time we will adopt issues and place them in order of importance for our attention. This paragraph was made a **motion** by Dave and seconded by Bob.

Vote passes unanimously. To be an agenda item for next meeting.

Paul Verrell asks the question of Eric and the committee referring to hiring of part time personnel and that records checks need to be done that are not being done now. Paul feels that especially in the arena of Public Safety we should not be hiring people with certain criminal background to include but not limited to assault, violent crimes etc. domestic violence type things.

Mike H also states that he is concerned also. He states that there are people of concern at this time employed by the town.

Much discussion ensues in reference to this subject.

Mike M suggests that we have incurred some vicarious liability.

Mike makes a **motion** to recommend to selectmen that a current drivers license record and criminal record check be run on everybody who is employed, either on a volunteer or full time or part time basis for this town. That the results of these records checks be given to the selectmen only.

Mike H seconded

Vote: 7 yes--1 abstention Vote Passes.

Dave feels that we need to touch on drug testing at some point also.

Eric agrees that these records checks should be incorporated in the hiring process on anybody hired by this town in the future.

The intent of this committee with regards to the drivers license and criminal records checks is that this committee intends that the Town of Waterboro limit exposure of liability to the town and that this is not directed towards one individual or group of individuals.

Mike announces that next month we are going to invite the department heads to attend this meeting. That we are going to come back with our goals. We are hopeful to have some recommendations from our sub committee on the vehicle.

Motion to adjourn meeting 8:26 pm

Respectfully submitted

Paul S. Verrell Sr.