

December 12, 2016

Minutes

Public Security Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Attending: Mike Hogan-Selectboard, Steve Godin, Tim Gochey, Stephen Hogan-Cabot Constable, Sheriff Sam Hill & Captain Bret Meyer- Washington County Sheriff Department

- Discussion on what training Constables needed to be certified. 24 V.S.A. §1936a(b) include powers to do the following: serve civil or criminal processes, destroy animals, kill injured deer, assist health officer in the discharge of their duties, serve as district court officer, remove disorderly people from town meeting, collect taxes when no tax collector is elected. Constables are required to have training before exercising law enforcement authority. They have to attend training at the Police Academy.
- Part time constables must complete a minimum of 58 hours of classroom instruction in order to receive a 12 -month provisional certificate. They can exercise law enforcement powers, but only under the direct supervision and control of a full- time law enforcement officer. For full law enforcement powers, they must complete 110 hours of training during a 12- month period. They have this authority only within the municipality.
- Washington County does extended coverage with Lamoile County for various towns. They have conducted a Valley Patrol in Waitsfield, and Warren since the late 1990's. It can be very expensive depending on the number of hours required.
- Discussion on the shortage of law enforcement officers and how hard it is to fill positions.
- Neighborhood Watch: It works in communities where people are active and attentive to what is happening and follow up with law enforcement. Program in Plainfield Wednesday 12/14 6:30 p.m.-Cutler Library
- It was mentioned that there is a federal statute that was used recently in Burlington and Rutland where a landlord who knew his tenants were dealing and using drugs was prosecuted.
- Final thoughts: it looks like a combination of a solid Neighborhood Watch Program along with a cooperative agreement with adjoining towns for more patrols. The costs would be shared. No idea of the amount. We should reach out to the folks in Plainfield and Marshfield to see if they are interested.
- Plan on one more meeting prior to the visit from VSP in January 2017.

Michael J. Hogan

Cabot Selectboard