



**Town of Port Deposit
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT – In person: Chairman Brown, Mayor Kuhs, Councilman Knight, Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Chief of Police Smith. Via Zoom: Counsel McCarron.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes from the April 5, 2022 Public Safety Meeting were presented.

Motion made by Mayor Kuhs to approve the April 5, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Chairman Brown. Councilman Knight abstained due to being absent at the April 5, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY BY-LAWS

Councilman Knight stated that the Public Safety By-laws were originally written in 2018, which at that time the scope was exploratory and advisory. He requested for Counsel McCarron to review the by-laws as there is questions as to if the Police Department should report to the Public Safety Committee or the Council. Counsel McCarron advised that the Charter dictates the Police Department and Charter Amendments may be required. Councilman Knight also requested for Counsel McCarron to review how the Personnel Committee comes into play with the Public Safety Committee and Police Department and asked how other towns are structured. Counsel McCarron advised that other towns have their Charter set up differently and the Mayor does not vote even in a tie, and instead have an executive VETO power.

WORK SCHEDULE

Chief Smith requested to reduce her schedule from 16 hours a week to 8 hours a week effective immediately due to personal home life and does not want to be obligated to work 16 hours until she resigns in September. She advised that the Cecil County Sheriff's Office has been signing up for all possible patrol shifts in town. Chairman Brown inquired if Chief Smith is having difficulty working with obligations at home, are finances are the reason for waiting till September to resign. Discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives to later be discussed in closed executive session.

Mayor Kuhs asked Chief Smith if there are functions that she is performing that the town would have to ensure someone else does to which she stated code enforcement. Mayor Kuhs inquired if that is how her 8 hours/week would be spent until she resigns. Chief Smith stated that she does not do much code enforcement and the majority of the hours would be in meetings.

The Public Safety Committee agreed to allow Chief Smith to reduce her hours from 16 hrs/ week to 8 hrs/week effective immediately and for no additional training to be included in those 8 hours through September.

The Public Safety Committee will hold a Special Closed Executive Session Meeting on May 17th to discuss the Police Department and plans moving forward.

CAMERA PROJECT – PHASE 4

Councilman Knight presented the estimate for Phase 4 of the Camera Project which amounted to \$68,000 including Vannort Drive. He stated Vannort Drive individually was \$12,500. The lack of electric and angle of the cameras have created challenges for the project to which the town and security camera company are working on creative solutions. The Public Safety Committee will recommend completing Phase 4 in additional phases and potentially using ARPA Funding or applying for a VLT Grant.

UPDATE FROM CHIEF SMITH – Chief Smith will provide Chief’s Report at the Town Council Meeting. She advised the Committee of a local incident at the Cecil County building and Detention Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:



Kevin Brown, Chairman