



**Town of Port Deposit  
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The minutes from the May 3, 2022 and May 17, 2022 Public Safety Meeting were presented.

Motion made by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mayor Kuhs. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC SAFETY BY-LAWS**

Counsel McCarron presented proposed recommended amendments to the Public Safety By-laws dependent upon the direction that the Public Safety Committee and Town Council decide to move regarding code enforcement and the Police Department. Counsel McCarron explained if amendments are to be made, the town would begin with Charter amendments, followed by an Ordinance and by-law amendments to formalize the role of the Public Safety Committee.

Town Administrator Rinkerman explained that the system in place currently does work and aligns with the Charter, stating that the Mayor is the administrative head of the government and the Town Council is Legislative. She advised that creating another layer of bureaucracy is unnecessary and could create complications in the future. Town Administrator Rinkerman explained that the Public Safety meetings would still take place; potentially 1 hour prior to the Town Council Meeting as they currently are scheduled, but would include the entire Town Council.

The Committee discussed finding an individual with the abilities and qualifications to be able to successfully run a department and still have oversight directed from the authority already built into the Charter. Councilman Knight suggested to pause the discussion and amendments on the official documents and discuss what direction they would like to go with the Police Department and code enforcement. Once the desired outcome has been determined, then proceed with making the necessary amendments.

Chairman Brown and Councilman Knight expressed the need to maximize current resources such as the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, and even other local police departments. Maintaining a better relationship and communication with these outside agencies would not only maximize available resources, but would also be cost effective. The concern of the new state regulations for Police Departments were discussed, in addition to the liabilities and costs that come with the town having a sworn Police Officer compared to having a more administrative and code enforcement role and outsourcing where needed.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of having a sworn police officer compared to having a reliable individual in place to complete administrative duties, serve as a liaison, and execute truck, parking, and code enforcement. Councilman Knight stressed the importance of determining a cost benefit analysis to ensure that the funds are well spent for what the town would receive, whether the town has their own Police Department/Chief or if they outsourced. He suggested that the town start to define a position that provides code enforcement, parking, security camera overview, etc. to cover the administrative pieces that they are

looking for, and to then discuss the next steps. He suggested they first re-invest and ramp up public works and code enforcement, focus on the sidewalks and bridges that need repair, and additional investments that could be done prior to additional tax revenue from Bainbridge.

The Committee will continue to work on defining the position in need and what direction to proceed at their next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Brown, Chairman