



**Town of Port Deposit
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021**

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

PRESENT – Chairman Brown, Mayor Kuhs, Councilman Knight, Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Chief of Police Smith.

ABSENT – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes from the May 4, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting were presented.

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

BAINBRIDGE PATROL UPDATE

Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the board that Toni Sprenkle from the Bainbridge Development Corporation (BDC) is seeking Patrol of their property Friday afternoons to Sunday when trespassing is most prevalent. This would consist of 4 hours per week of “boots on the ground” patrolling, not just periodically checking on the property. Chief Smith stated that she cannot get her car through the current roads of the property and suggests that the BDC hire a security company.

SECOND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Town Administrator Rinkerman requested a follow up on the Second Employment Agreement previously discussed and provided to Chief Smith in April as it had not been returned/signed at this time. Chief Smith stated she was unaware that it required her signature and she will sign the Second Employment Agreement.

CECIL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – PROCESSING, CUSTODY AND TRANSPORT OF ARRESTEES – Chief Smith stated she was informed that the County Attorney had lost the MOU and asked for the Cecil County Sheriff’s Office to re-send the MOU.

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY POLICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – Chief Smith stated she contacted Lt. Joseph Scott who informed her that some of the other towns have issues with the MOU which is why it has not moved forward at this time. The board previously directed Chief Smith to inquire about the possibility of an individual MOU with the town at the May 4, 2021 meeting, and asked for an updated status. Chief Smith stated that she thinks they would do an individual MOU with the town. After expressing importance of having an MOU in place and wanting to move forward, the committee again directed Chief Smith to request an individual MOU. Councilman Knight expressed that the MDTA MOU has been a repeat item on the agenda for a while and steps need to be taken to move forward.

CHIEF’S COMMENTS

Chief Smith stated her need for following items:

- Laptop for the police car to provide her access to all systems – Water Witch Fire Co. has offered to provide an old laptop which they no longer use.
- Access to online systems
- Individual cell phone
- Access to open VPN Network to be able to talk over the radio
- New uniforms

- A police station or location to take prisoners and individuals for interviews – she stated she contacted Community Connecting Us as a possible location.
- Body cameras by 2024.

Council Knight stated that he is in favor of the phone and laptop, and questioned how the laptop would be connected via internet and to the systems she stated are required. Chief Smith was directed to gather all details and costs to then present to the Public Safety Committee.

Chief Smith appealed the denial of the Human Trafficking Training she attended on May 11 – 12, 2021 in Ocean City, Maryland. She stated her hotel room was paid for through grant money and the training itself was free, but has issues with not being paid for the 16 hours to attend the training.

Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that the training was denied after she reached out to Chief Smith asking for the statistics of Human Trafficking in Cecil County and Port Deposit to ensure that the training attended is reflective of the job duties performed in the Town of Port Deposit. Town Administrator Rinkerman proceeded to contact the Cecil County Health Department and Human Trafficking Task Force. The Cecil County Health Department has their own unit that handles and investigates human trafficking, taking it out of Chief Smith's direct hands. Due to the information obtained and the training not directly benefiting the town, the training was denied.

Councilman Knight asked Chief Smith how she thought that the training would benefit the Town. Chief Smith responded that since she never attended Human Trafficking Training before, she thought it was okay to attend and requested to be paid for the 16 hours.

Mayor Kuhs stated that the commission's issue is that 100% of Chief Smith's time was taken away from her being present in Town or "boots on the ground" and was spent at an optional training which would not directly benefit the town. Especially when those cases would not be handled by her, and instead by a special unit specifically dedicated to human trafficking.

Chairman Brown and Councilman Knight stated that since the training utilized 100% of Chief Smith's time, she should have presented the training to the Public Safety Committee and it should have been appealed prior to her attending the training. The board agreed to pay for Chief Smith's time at the training, but stated the training was not appropriate or the best use of her time.

Mayor Kuhs stated that future trainings are to be presented to the Public Safety Committee before attending, otherwise he expects her time to be spent in town and to be accounted for in order to validate the hours which she is being paid for.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:



Kevin Brown, Chairman