



**Town of Port Deposit  
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Kuhs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT** – In person: Mayor Kuhs, Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Finance Manager Sookiasian. Via Zoom: Councilman Knight and Chief of Police Smith.

**ABSENT** – Chairman Brown

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The minutes from the March 2, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting are postponed till the next meeting due to no quorum of the Public Safety Committee.

**CECIL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – PROCESSING, CUSTODY AND TRANSPORT OF ARRESTEES** – Postponed. Nothing to report at this time

**TRUCK SIGNAGE**

Mayor Kuhs expressed his concern over the excessive truck traffic through town and the safety concerns of the truckers, residents, and town due to the narrow roads and the speed at which the trucks are traveling. He stated that he does not feel the signage in place is adequate to prevent truck traffic.

Ken Fender, SHA stated that volume of truck traffic has increased due to some of the COVID restrictions being lifted which has increased traffic all around. He stated that they are restricted as to what signs that they can post on the Conowingo Dam, but they have added signs both before and after the dam stating the truck restriction. They will request to place an additional sign on the traffic signal as well.

**SHA- DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE**

Ken Fender, SHA provided a quick update regarding the storm water drainage project. He stated that the project is on their list as the number one (1) priority for District #2. Due to the current and forecasted budget, they are looking at the project for potentially FY 2023. Since the project is temporarily delayed, he is working on a patch or full overlay paving of S. Main Street, depending on meeting ADA regulations,

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET DISCUSSION – CCSO SCHEDULE**

Finance Manager Sookiasian presented the budget reflected by the current CCSO shift schedule in place. In previous years, there has been an increase of shifts during the summer due to the increase of traffic and activity. Finance Manager Sookiasian stated that the schedule was initially mentioned to Chief Smith in October 2020, and was recently reinforced by Chief Smith with no increase in the number of shifts for the summer schedule.

Chief Smith stated that she did not have any plan of increasing the number of shifts for the summer schedule and stated it was unnecessary as her plan is to hopefully have MDTA in town soon to do truck enforcement.

Councilman Knight stated he believes that the increased visitors and traffic during the summer creates a need to increase coverage during the summer. The committee discussed adding two (2) additional shifts starting May 1, 2021. Mayor Kuhs directed Chief Smith to meet with Finance Manager Sookiasian in order to discuss the budget. Finance Manager Sookiasian stressed needing a plan with beginning and end dates.

**EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS**

Finance Manager Sookiasian provided an update regarding the request to have a direct phone line for Chief Smith in order to avoid phone calls for the Port Deposit Police Department coming through to Town Hall staff. The IT Company has determined that the current phone system in place does not have the availability of a direct line to Chief Smith and has recommended installing an up to date phone system which would have that capability and additional benefits. Councilman Knight stated that he will contact the IT Company in order to discuss details further.

#### **CAMERA PROJECT**

Phase III – Finance Manager Sookiasian provided an update on Phase III of the camera project. Phase III of the camera project consists of 5 additional cameras on N. Main Street: 2 in parking lot #2, 1 in the parking lot across from Jefferson Hall, and 2 in the Rice Tot Lot. The board stated they wish to proceed with presenting the project at the next Town Council meeting for approval.

Councilman Knight discussed the alternative cameras to be considered for installation at the basketball court. The board agreed that the best option out of the ones provided, would hopefully be connected to a resident's wireless network for operation.

#### **BAINBRIDGE PATROL**

Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the board that Cecil College will be moving the trucking school off of the Bainbridge site. Without the presence of Cecil College and their help monitoring people on and off of Bainbridge, Carl Roberts from the Bainbridge Development Corporation (BDC) has asked if the town would consider adding a shift for Chief Smith to patrol the property. The board discussed the matter and will continue discussion at the next meeting.

**FIREARMS SIGNAGE IN MARINA PARK** – Postponed until the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:

  
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Kevin Brown, Chairman