



**Town of Port Deposit  
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT** – In person: Chairman Brown, Mayor Kuhs, Councilman Knight, Councilman Tome Jr., and Councilman Berlin and Town Administrator Rinkerman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The minutes from the June 10, 2022 Public Safety Meeting were presented.

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY BY-LAWS**

Chairman Brown provided a recap on what was discussed at the previous meeting regarding Counsel McCarron's insight on the Public Safety by-laws in addition to the roles and focus of the Public Safety Committee, the scope of personnel moving forward, the charter, and ramping up infrastructure.

Councilman Knight stressed the importance of determining a cost benefit analysis and remembering that when the town previously had a Police Department, it consumed a majority of the town's funding and drained the town's savings.

Mayor Kuhs discussed the lack of communication from the Cecil County Sheriffs Office and stated that the town will be unsuccessful receiving communication from police agencies without a sworn police officer. Council Knight disagrees, stating that the town/committee/liason needs to step up and try to communicate with the police agencies and not allow the relationship to die. He suggested inviting CCSO, MSP, and the MDTA to meetings to open up communication. He stated that the Public Safety Committee has always let things ride, and now needs to be more involved to rebuild relationships with the town.

Mayor Kuhs inquired about contracting the Maryland State Police. Town Administrator Rinkerman explained that MSP still has a resident trooper program which may be worth looking into. She stated that after discussion with Sherriff Adams, having a town officer immediately puts the officer's life at risk by not having adequate back up, rather than having an outside agency contracted who have backup more readily available.

Chairman Brown questioned what type of position the town actually needs, whether it is a sworn officer, retired officer, code enforcement officer. He is not certain that the town knows what they need at this point in time. Councilman Knight is against the hybrid approach as it leaves too many gray areas and suggested to start by building up code enforcement and public works as a separate position from an officer/public safety.

Discussion ensued regarding a Public Works and Code Administrator hybrid position for the town and potentially contracting some of the Public Works projects out. The committee agreed that it is more important to invest in Public Works and Code immediately compared to Public Safety and having a sworn officer. Councilman Tome Jr. asked for Public Works to compose a list of their duties and schedules prior to hiring for the position. The committee directed Town Administrator Rinkerman to proceed with developing the Public Works and Code Administrator job description.

Chairman Brown stated that when he returns to the area in August, he will proceed with contacting CCSO, MSP, and the MDTA to meet and hopefully receive some input regarding what type of plan the town needs, building

the communication and relationship between the agencies and the town, and will inquire about the Resident Trooper program with MSP. Chairman Brown stated he will determine the best point of contact for each agency.

Discussion ensued regarding opening up CCSO shifts to anytime rather than the current schedule in order to accommodate the officers schedule with the shortage of officers and lack of shift sign-ups. Mayor Kuhs stated that he did not like the idea of providing open availability to the officers and instead suggested moving the Police car around town and increasing the number of speed radar units throughout town.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Brown, Chairman