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11-27-06

**Police Commission Meeting
August 10, 2006
Draft Minutes**

**Present: Commissioner James Blass
Councilman Carl Ritchie
Councilwoman Linda Gabaccia
Officer in Charge George Hoffman**

Audience: Julie McKenna

At the start of the meeting Julie McKenna inquired if anyone at the Police Department had been asked to examine the impact of the Housing Resources Development upon police services. She indicated that Housing Resources preliminary filing suggested that there was no impact to police services in spite of the number of additional housing units going in. She was informed by Commissioner Blass and Officer in Charge George Hoffman that the project had not been reviewed by the police department.

Commissioner Blass indicated that there was no new correspondence and that both sponsored candidates for the Police Academy had passed their physicals.

Councilwoman Gabaccia raised the issue of acquiring additional disability insurance for the police officers. She pointed out that the need had been brought to her attention by Officer Rob Lopez. Given that the officers are employed part-time should they become injured on the job it can create financial hardship, because they are unable to work at their full time jobs and are compensated based on their Copake Police Dept. pay.

Commissioner Blass indicated that he had spoken to Supervisor Valentino about the matter and was looking into the Self-Insure program at the County.

Councilwoman Gabaccia inquired about the defibrillators and CPR kits which had been mentioned at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Blass indicated that Officers Tompkins and Tice were going through training.

Under New Business the Commission discussed a course at the Fire Academy which Officers Near and Hoffman were scheduled to attend. Officer Near is already a fire investigator. The course is 18 hours and is for Electrical Fire Cause Determination. There is a \$25 fee and an additional \$40 for meals and lodging and is held in Montour Falls, an old monastery. Officers Near and Hoffman are class one and two certified.

The Commission discussed the definition of positions sergeant, chief and police officer. Commissioner Blass indicated that Officer In Charge is an assignment not an appointment. He likened it to Officer Tompkins being FTO. He further indicated that being an investigator is not considered supervisory experience. Councilwoman Gabaccia asked Commissioner Blass to define supervisory experience. Commissioner Blass indicated that it is acquired by title.

Commissioner Blass indicated that two officers had put in applications to work at Copake P.D.

Commissioner Blass discussed the upgrading of the phone system from the old Centrex system. He indicated that it would not be possible to divert calls to the Sheriff's office. With the new system every officer will have his/her own mailbox. We will have voicemail with 8 boxes and each additional box will cost \$1.00. There will be three phone lines: regular, fax, and one dedicated to the breathalyzer. DSL will cost \$97.22/mo. There will be three new phones, 8 voicemail boxes, caller i.d. and the equipment is rental, all for \$94.27/mo.

Councilwoman Gabaccia raised the possibility of making the Commissioner a paid position from which the department can be managed. The Commission discussed the possibility of hiring a clerk to give the officers more road time as opposed to paperwork time.

Commissioner Blass indicated that Officer in Charge Hoffman had used the filemaker program and had set up an evidence tracking system on the computer similar to the one he designed for use at the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. OIC Hoffman also indicated that the warrants were now on the computer.

OIC Hoffman indicated that Officer Near was looking into a mugshot program for the department. Commissioner Blass said it would have to be tied in with other things. OIC said we should be able to go to digital which would be cheaper than the polaroid which is being used.. He also said it would be good to rely upon the Sheriff's Dept. because they photograph anybody in the jail. Commissioner Blass countered saying we could do our own and download the photos.

Ticketing was discussed and Commissioner Blass indicated that XJS did not work out. He said that the only thing free is the E-Ticket program and that it would cost 5-6 thousand dollars per car to outfit with the necessary hardware. OIC Hoffman said Troopers can scan in license and it prints all the info on the ticket.

Commissioner Blass said there had been a problem with Ken Main's cows in the road.

OIC Hoffman raised the issue of a new police station. Councilman Ritchie inquired as to what kind of space might be needed. The need for garage space for 4-6 cars, 2 interview rooms, 2 offices, locker room, shower room, secure evidence room with no outside walls, proper storage room and easy expandibility were noted. Commissioner Blass said that going up a second story would raise handicap accessibility issues.

OIC Hoffman presented the case status report to the Commission.

Scheduling of interviews for the new Chief of Police/Officer in Charge were discussed and

