

Final
Temple-Greenville Police Joint Board
Minutes of the Public Meeting

August 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Attending the meeting were Carla Mary and Douglas Reardon of Greenville, Gail Cromwell and George Willard of Temple, Chief McTague, Kelley Collins, Greenville Town Administrator, and a group of concerned citizens.

A motion by D. Reardon seconded by G. Cromwell to appoint C. Mary as the chairman of the board was passed unanimously.

Kelley Collins presented a group of items (see addendum) for discussion relating to the upcoming contract renewal. Items included were:

- Payroll administrative expenses
- Building expenses
- Fuel expenses

Additionally, C. Mary would like to discuss an additional board member for the Town of Greenville. The board will discuss these items at future meetings.

G. Cromwell would like to discuss options for covering the property and liability insurance. K. Collins noted that with the likely elimination of the Property Liability Trust as an insurance provider, an increase in costs was expected.

(K. Collins left the meeting at this time.)

MINUTES:

A motion by C. Mary, seconded by G. Cromwell to accept the minutes of the June 1st meeting as written was passed.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The new cruiser has been purchased, and is currently being fitted with lights and radios. When that is finished, the decals will be completed by Don Kraemer and the cruiser will be on the road. Chief McTague reported that Chicago Motors, the company that has purchased the last three retired cruisers, offered only \$800.00 for the Crown Victoria. He suggested that it be offered for sale on Craig's List at a price of \$1,500.00. Officer Rousseau will handle the listing.

Chief McTague reported that recently appointed part time officer John Riel withdrew from the current part time academy due to a serious family medical issue. He hopes that John Riel will be able to attend the next academy.

The Independence Day celebrations in both towns went well from a police standpoint, with no arrests in either town.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION:

A group of residents attended the meeting to voice concerns about drug issues in Greenville.

The following concerns were among those voiced by the group.

- The increase in drug usage in Greenville
- Safety concerns for ambulance volunteers as they respond to heroin overdose calls outside of the hours of operation of the Police Department
- Visible drug deals in the downtown area
- Lack of Police response to the issue

Chief McTague addressed these concerns by explaining that the department is well aware of the heroin use issue, and that the problem is not confined to Greenville, but has escalated across the region, the state, and nationally. He explained that in the past, when marijuana was the problem drug, it was easier to make arrests, because the production was occurring locally and was easier to see, and because its use typically involves smoking. Heroin has overtaken marijuana in usage because it is so inexpensive, and it is by nature harder to control.

Chief McTague also relayed that due to budget restraints, the department is understaffed. He confirmed concerns that there were times that the ambulance would have to wait for State Police coverage due to lack of 24 hour coverage. The department's hours of operation are generally from 7:00 am to 3:00 am, but there are a number of regular shifts covered by part timers that end at midnight.

Chief McTague cited legislation making possession of syringes legal, and granting immunity for heroin overdoses as factors increasing the difficulty for getting these drugs off the streets.

In response to concerns about people openly selling drugs in downtown areas, as well as in known "drug houses", Chief McTague stated that the department rarely receives calls while these activities are occurring, and that generally, the callers wish to remain anonymous and are reluctant to testify in court, or provide too little information for the department to be able to obtain necessary warrants. He further stated that the department was unable to use its officers for undercover work, as they are too well known. The state and federal departments that have assisted in the past are overwhelmed with the statewide heroin issue, and their resources are going to larger communities.

A resident noted that the cameras on the station could be helpful in apprehending dealers on Main Street. Chief McTague responded that the cameras were strictly for monitoring the station, as it is unlawful in NH for law enforcement to use cameras for surveillance purposes.

A resident questioned the chief about what was needed to catch drug dealers that residents see on the streets. Chief McTague stated that the police have to prove the crime, not just know about the crime. Officers can't legally search a person or his belongings without a warrant, which requires substantial information from witnesses who are willing to be named and testify in court.

C. Mary summarized that residents need to document what they see and call to report. A member of the group asked if the calls would overwhelm the limited number of officers. C. Mary responded that in her experience, the department is very responsive when calls are made.

A speaker expressed frustration that Greenville has become a place she doesn't want to live, but that it has been impossible to sell her home. One citizen stated that along with law enforcement, the residents in town need to take positive steps to make Greenville attractive to home buyers and businesses. The Beautification Committee was cited as an example of this. D. Reardon informed the group that the planning board has been making efforts to improve problem areas, especially concerning absentee landlords.

Another citizen reiterated that law enforcement agencies were being "handcuffed" by lawmakers in Concord, and the trend toward "free state" legislation.

D. Reardon suggested that parking cruisers on the street rather than in the garage would give greater visibility.

The board asked questions of ambulance personnel about the increased use of Narcan on ambulance calls. It was reported that the number of calls was unknown, but that it had been increasing. It was also reported that due to the combativeness of patients receiving Narcan, that certain residences were flagged as unsafe for ambulance personnel to go in without police.

The board concluded the meeting by encouraging residents to continue to communicate their concerns, and noting that the issues discussed at this meeting would continue to be discussed by the board.

A motion by D. Reardon, seconded by C. Mary to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 was passed.

**TEMPLE-GREENVILLE POLICE
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
2015**

Addendum to
JBM
08032015

It has been three years since the last contract negotiation. The change to the formula three years ago took into account the 2010 census number and changed from 62% Greenville and 38% Temple to 61% Greenville and 39% Temple. With the exception of deadlines for budgets there were no other significant changes made three years ago.

Administration:

Greenville Staff is responsible for payroll, and all payroll related reporting, including NH Retirement tracking, accounts receivable, accounts payable and Revolving Fund Accounting & reconciliations. In addition, Greenville does all the benefits administration for health, life, dental, L-T-D, S-T-D insurances. The Police Department accounts for 39.13% of the payroll and 40% of the NH Retirement employees.

(payroll 39.13 %, accounts payable, MA tax filing 100%, NHRS monthly filing 40%, W2s & W3 40%, hiring paperwork, I9, W4, unemp reporting, benefits admini, insurance holidays, insurance claims, workers comp claims at 90 hrs at an avg between TA and AA rates = \$2142)

Physical Facility:

Police Station – housing of police staff should be a 50/50 enterprise. Population should have nothing to do with housing. Temple has never contributed to the cost of housing (5 years of rent \$45,000 and eventual purchase of the building \$75,000).