

ARLINGTON POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., Chairman Lensing presiding.

Members present: Chairman Lensing, Scharping, Sheriff Ponath, Councilmember Mike Vrklan

Members absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator David Krueger, Mayor James Kreft, Police Chief Rovinsky, Deputy Sheriff Nienaber

The Committee reviewed the contract that the City of Winthrop has with the County. Lensing questioned what type of coverage the Council was looking for from the County. Krueger commented that he believed they wanted coverage during the 3 am to 3 pm (call time-emergency responses). Lensing questioned what would happen with the phones if these would become the contracted hours. Mayor Kreft commented that the Council had not given any solutions. It was commented that the PD currently has an answering machine for non-emergency purposes, which has a message on it to contact the County if there is an emergency or they need to speak to an officer. Krueger commented that if the Council is insistent about the phones being answered and not wanting to pay its officers while the County is "on-call", an additional part-time office worker would have to be hired to handle the phones (weekdays from 8 am – 5 pm only) when Lana was not there as Lisa and Vicki are both busy with finance and minutes. Ponath and Nienaber both stated that the County will respond to whatever the City wants it to (put in the contract), but it would cost so much per call. They also commented on how the contract would work (billing, investigations, follow up, etc.) and how it has been working in Winthrop. Nienaber commented that there is a transitional period before the public feels comfortable calling the County for non-emergencies.

Lensing commented that the Council still has to clarify what it wants and/or expects from the Police Department. He commented that the PD should have a second cell phone programmed to the same number; that way each officer has a phone and they don't have to keep passing 1 phone between them; and when they are not the officer on duty, they turn their phone off. Administrator Krueger commented that the City chose to keep the 2 cell phones that had been used by the water/wastewater department and 1 could be given to the PD.

Discussion was held on trying to determine what hours should or should not be covered by the County along with what services should be included (assistance with ambulance calls, snowbird ticketing, animal calls, am school patrols, helicopter pad, funeral escorts, and traffic control for fire department, etc.). It was strongly suggested that the Council should hold a special meeting because things have come to a point where a decision needs to be made in order to get the process moving again. Krueger commented that it needs to be decided if contracting with the County is supposed to be long or short term, as this will also determine what direction should or will be taken. It was commented that the Council needs to make their decision based on what is best for the community and not some other (personal) issue(s). Lensing commented that the City sometimes does things that are not always cost effective and with that said, stated that the public has not been complaining about the costs associated with having a police department, but this will change considerably if the department is not brought back up to full staffing. Ponath stated that they should be able to cover Arlington's needs without putting too much strain on the Sheriff's Department, but this would be monitored closely.

Mayor Kreft asked those present if they knew of any individuals who would be interested in serving on the Police Committee and to give him their names so that the additional vacant spots (created by Ordinance No. 202) can be filled.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Scharping, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman, Bill Lensing

Secretary, Vicki L. Pomplun