

ARLINGTON POLICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., City Adm. Jaunich presiding.

Members present: Rose, Swenson, Wills, Councilmember Reetz, Councilmember Vrklan, Mayor Kreft,
Police Chief Rovinsky, Sheriff Bruce Ponath

Members absent: Chief Deputy Sheriff Nienaber

Also present: City Administrator Jaunich

Chief Deputy Sheriff Nienaber was unable to make the meeting, but had forwarded a copy of the December Sheriff's Report so it could be reviewed at the meeting. It was noted that they did 4.5 hours of school patrol, 15 hours of regular patrol and handled 11 calls (approximately 11 hours). Chief Rovinsky commented that the Sheriff's Department has become very short staffed recently and has had to readjust their schedules. He commented that the local departments are picking up the slack where possible.

Chief Rovinsky spoke briefly on ticketing and explained what happens to the fees collected (how it is split up between agencies).

Chief Rovinsky presented the monthly Police Department report for December, the 2008 year-end report and accumulative years 2004-2008. He stated that the PD had responded to 75 calls for the month. Wills commented that he would like to see the number of warnings (curfew, traffic, etc.) issued on the monthly report. Chief Rovinsky will add this to the report. It was noted that Fire Chief, new Ambulance Manager and Police Chief will be holding monthly EMS meetings to work out their Emergency Operations Plans and to put a protocol together for how certain calls are to be handled/dispatched. Chief Rovinsky explained that the Police Department had been awarded a laptop computer via a grant through the Target Corporation.

A roster of officers, both full and part time, was reviewed. Discussion was held on the schedule the officers work based on other commitments/obligations they may have. It was noted that all part-time officers have met the requirements for working as an officer in Arlington (minimum of 144 hours worked). Some discussion was also held on the status of the licensing for part-time officers and if the State was still proposing to eliminate them.

Chief Rovinsky talked about the direction the Council has given him with regards to the department and what they would like to see in the next year, which included having the Police Committee assist with determining (research) whether there is a need for additional (full-time) staff and to clarify the term "full time" police force (round the clock coverage, which Arlington has never had, or just the addition of full-time officers). Sheriff Ponath commented that the Service Agreement between the City and County is going well and will continue as long as it is needed.

Discussion was held on whether the Committee has to meet monthly or not. It was agreed that meetings could be held every other month.

It was noted that the next regular meeting would be February 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tech Center. The following items will be on the agenda: election of officers, review of Personnel Policies and develop a hiring process for both full and part time officers.

Rose questioned how the department was doing with follow-ups to calls, whether in writing, in person or by phone. Chief Rovinsky commented that the officers are supposed to be doing the follow up work, but if they are not, he encouraged the Committee members to relay to the public that it is best to just call the PD if they have questions/concerns. Adm. Jaunich commented that there should be some kind of paper trail in a file stating what the call was and what was done; that way the Chief can go through them to make sure that follows are taking place.

Motion by Vrklan, and seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Acting Chairperson/City Administrator

Secretary Vicki Pomplun