

Bob Thompson\_\_\_\_\_

John Allen\_\_\_\_\_

Richard Bennett\_\_\_\_\_

### **Selectmen's Listening Board**

January 26, 2017

Present: Bob Thompson, Chairman and Richard Bennett, Selectmen

Visitors: Bea Davis, Kevin Bennett, Stan Weiss, Kathy Dougherty, Jerry Dougherty, Betsey Harding, Brian Johnston, Joan Kelly

The chief started the conversation with his views on community policing. At its core good community policing is just good police work. At the end of the day it's a police department being available, responsive, respectful and professional. I started as a foot beat police officer in Conway Village. I walked from 10AM to 6 PM or 6PM to 2 AM with just a radio. It's hard to get closer to the public than that. I was a bike officer in Conway, and the first DARE officer in Pelham, a DARE mentor, and the President of the DARE Association of New Hampshire in 2000. I like connecting with the community children and adults. I think being visible, approachable, and professional are the benchmarks. An agency has to have a balanced and fair approach to enforcement along with education. We could spend the whole day making traffic stops on Rt. 16 but we have an entire residential area that needs vigilance during the day when people work. It all matters. We want to be good neighbors not boorish hosts or unwelcome guests.

A comment was made about controlling the speeding on back roads around town like Black Mountain Road. People in the past may have believed that there was no enforcement but that will not be the case. We want to see and be seen on these roads. Officer McDonald has made several traffic stops on Black Mountain Road this week. Rural roads can be dangerous.

Sarah asked if another officer was going to be hired. The chief answered yes because in order to cover the time needed a third officer would be necessary. The minimum coverage should be 16 hours a day 7 days a week. I'm hearing from the community that they want to see the police. To have sufficient coverage requires more than two officers. Things like vacations, sick time, court time, and training all take a way from patrol time. Sarah still thinks a third officer is not needed with the ability of the state police and sheriff's department to respond when needed.

The question was asked if the police truck could be made to look more like a police vehicle. The response was yes and in fact was being done tomorrow. It will be re-lettered with white lettering and reflective chevrons on the rear tailgate. The internal

lights are actually the most effective and do have 360 degree visibility. A bar light would not be as effective and would be a substantial cost. We are not trying to surprise anyone. We do need an undercover car. We need the vehicle to be seen.

I say what I mean and mean what I say. I 'm not one to hedge words.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Amiee Murphy  
Recording Secretary