

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi, Chairman AND Mr. Marc W. Richard, Clerk

ABSENT : Mr. James A. Gagner, Jr.

ATTENDEES: Chief Spiewakowski, Anne Banville, John Nason, Kathy Odiorne, Bev and Stanley Soltys

Mr. Nardi called the open session to order at 4 PM and dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nardi began the discussion with the Chief regarding his FY18 budget proposal. He stated that when he was a member of the Finance Committee, he recalled the Chief's position at the time as being if he (Chief) could hire a 7th full time officer, then the overtime would be eliminated. Mr. Nardi stated that the overtime is out of control to the tune of \$90,000.00 in FY16.

Chief Spiewakowski stated that the biggest challenge he faces is that with the part-time officers. He cannot mandate that they work. He is currently staffing the overnights with only one officer. On a brighter note, the last round of hiring of part-time officers is seeing some headway in terms of them being fully field trained.

Mr. Nardi further stated that with the impending retirement of our Sergeant, he will be considering going back to a Deputy Chief position as in the past with that employee having an individual employment agreement separate from the CBA.

The Board further discussed possible Articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

Chief Spiewakowski stated that he will be requesting a vehicle to be utilized for the K9 Unit. According to the Chief, the current vehicle will not pass inspection. Mr. Nardi also discussed the issue of his use of one of the inline cars (2015 Interceptor). The Chief has been taking the vehicle home. The Chief advised all that it is in his employment agreement that the town provide a vehicle for his use. Both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Richard agree that the voters' intent was for the cruiser to stay in town.

Chief Spiewakowski responded by saying that the department went 6 years without a new vehicle and in order to rotate the vehicle and save mileage on the Ford 500 (which is now the Detective's car) he is taking a marked cruiser home.

Mr. Richard laid out a timeline of 12 days from February 9th thru February 20th in which the marked cruiser he is using was out of town for 8 ½ of those days. Mr. Richard cannot understand how it can be used for patrol purposes if it is in another town.

Mr. Nardi feels that his (Chief Spiewakowski) actions have set them back in terms of lobbying on their behalf. He further reminded him that perception is everything. Mr. Richard stated that a town of this size doesn't need a detective, let alone a detective's car.

Mr. Nason, member of the Finance Committee stated that regardless of what vehicle is being used, mileage is racking up going back and forth to Dudley.

Kathy Odiorne questioned if any monies from the Stanton Foundation can cover the retro fitting of a new K9 Unit. Chief Spiewakowski stated that there is enough money available from the grant and from the donation account. Ms. Banville stated that her understanding of the K9 Program is that it was not going to cost the town any money. Although not directly, the retro-fitting of a cruiser that the taxpayers approved, is a roundabout way of doing so.

Mr. Soltys, member of the Capital Planning Committee provided handouts to the Selectmen and Chief Spiewakowski on Dodge products. Mr. Nardi stated that he would look into it.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk