

# Village of Goodfield

Police Committee / Health, Safety & Maintenance Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2019 at the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Committee Chairman Edwards. In attendance were Committee Members Terry Nohl and Todd Perry, Village Trustee Roger Mullins, Deer Creek Police Officer Mullins and Police Chief Pott's wife.

Chairman Edwards reported that he had not heard back from Deer Creek Police Committee Chairman Ben Koch concerning an answer to our contract proposal of 3/21/19. Chief Potts wife said that they had thought I would be attending Deer Creek's committee meeting last night. I assured all that I was unaware of agreeing to be at their meeting but I was sure they were able to carry on without me.

Chairman Edwards then reported that he had heard back from the Woodford County Sheriff's Office and they had refigured the cost for Police protection to be \$41 per hour. Doing the math indicated that with the 911 costs included in Woodford County's proposal there was approximately \$1,849 difference between the last proposal to Deer Creek and Woodford County's. Chairman Edwards went on to say that if we were to go with Woodford County there would be some problems, first and foremost would be coverage to the Tazewell County side of the village. Chairman Edwards spoke with Jeff Lower, the Tazewell County Sheriff, and there could possibly be a way around that and he would not go any farther with that until it was necessary, Matt Smith (Woodford County Sheriff) and Jeff Lower would have to get together to work that issue out.

Chairman Edwards stated that was where things stood at this point and he presumed that Ben Koch would be getting back with him after Deer Creek's Board meeting tonight. Chief Potts wife stated that they would be getting back with us on Thursday. Chief Pott's wife asked if that \$1849 difference was the same amount of patrol time that we got from Deer Creek right now. Chairman Edwards said that there was 2 hours difference. Chief Potts wife stated that there was 50 some hours now. Chairman Edwards explained that we were asking for 38 hours out of 56 so Woodford County would be 40 hours and Deer Creek would be 38 so that was similar. Chief Potts wife stated that we were getting 50 some hours of patrol time now and we were asking for 38 for the same amount of money and that did not make any sense. There was a discussion about how many hours were actually Montgomery Township vs Goodfield and Mrs. Potts stated that Montgomery Township hours were included with Deer Creek hours and the Township did not get a whole lot because nothing happens there. Chairman Edwards brought up the fact that most of the fine money came from Montgomery Township and Chief Pott's wife said that was because of the road coming here. She went on to say that most of the hours were spent here in Goodfield and now we were asking for less hours and she couldn't see the logic in that. Chairman Edwards tried to explain that we were trying to target certain hours that we felt we needed coverage and that this was an attempt to keep cost down. Chief Pott's wife said that she understood cost savings probably better than anyone else here because of her position with the health department but as a citizen she thought the pattern here eluded her. She went on to say that we did have a problem because her husband was a former Tazewell County Deputy and she knew how those guys worked and it would take a half hour for them to get here. Officer Mullins asked if anyone here listened to a police scanner at night and if we did we would find that Woodford County was never here and they were always short

and he guaranteed that he was here 85% of his time. He was the first responder to the fire where the children died, he beat Woodford County by 10 minutes and the fire department by 5 minutes. A discussion ensued about how police coverage worked in St David and small towns in Fulton County and the arrest of a subject at the Freedom Gas Station where the subject was fighting with a deputy and Officer Mullins was called to assist. This subject was in possession of drugs, a gun and tazer. Chief Potts wife said that we had to consider response times where we had someone living right here who was on call 24/7 versus a Woodford county deputy that could be in Minonk or Spring Bay. A discussion by Officer Mullins and Mrs. Potts continued about how long it would take a Woodford County Deputy to respond if someone was breaking into your house and that Woodford County would probably be out on I-39 and they probably only had 3 deputy's on duty and for \$1,800 something could probably be worked out. Officer Mullins stated that this was really a safety issue and they had a lot of good guys who would come in on their time off. Mrs. Potts and Officer Mullins gave a brief description of the members of the Deer Creek Police Department and that they ran the interstate a lot and got a lot of drugs and guns there. They get a lot of money off the interstate. Mrs. Potts explained how there were a lot of other things that would eat up the 38 hours such as reports, taking people to jail or the hospital, training, etc. They have been keeping track of their hours the last 10 day informally and they are spending a lot more time here. Mrs. Potts said she understood budgetary issues but did we want to have to explain to someone that they lost their loved one because we wanted to save \$1,800. Chairman Edwards stated that no one wanted to do that. Officer Mullins brought up tickets and Chairman Edwards questioned how there was \$14,000 in fines from Montgomery Township and only \$3,000 from Goodfield but we are being told that you are spending most of your hours here in Goodfield. Mrs. Potts said hours spent could be 10 minutes to write a ticket or two hours just driving around town and that we were comparing two different things. A discussion ensued about speeding on US Rte 150 and would we rather have the guys write 4 tickets on Rte 150 or drive around town for two hours or write tickets in town for going 5 miles over the limit. Chairman Edwards said that no one said anything about writing tickets for 5 miles over and that that was getting pretty ridiculous. Chairman Edwards asked if they ran radar and wrote tickets on Rt 117. A discussion ensued about where they set up on Rte 117 and the problems of the on and off ramps to I-74. Officer Mullins stated he would set up on the south side of the interstate to monitor on and off traffic and write tickets. Chairman Edwards asked him if he wrote the tickets as Goodfield tickets or Montgomery Township tickets. He replied that if they were on this side (north) they were Goodfield, Chairman Edwards asked about on the south side and he replied that the lines were drawn weird and he was not sure where the lines were. More discussion was held about response times and what if scenarios and the problems that would be caused by the interstate construction. Chairman Edwards stated that we would wait to hear from Deer Creek and Mrs. Potts stated that she thought they were waiting to hear from me and that the 5% raise was ok but the reports were not. She also stated that they were going to have Pat McGrath, Deer Creek Village Attorney draw up papers for a 60 day extension of the contract because Deer Creek would no longer come over here after the 30<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion about happenings in other police departments Chairman Edwards asked Trustee Mullins if he had anything to bring up. Roger went over some requirements in the existing contract that were not being fulfilled. Mrs. Potts stated that we did get all that information. She went on to explain that Police schedules were FOIA eligible and that she used to work as a paralegal and that we should not have those schedules because everyone coming through town would know when someone is on duty. Chairman Edwards tried to explain that that was the reason for the 56 hour window but Mrs. Potts said

that would make the bank the target for a robbery. The instance where a call came in from another town was brought up and we tried to explain that we had gone over all that previously and understood that those types of things would happen and that was ok. A discussion took place about what hours were worked. They said that all 3 taverns were open and very busy now with cars parked up and down the streets in Deer Creek and that might need another officer on duty. Mrs. Potts asked what else we needed and we replied that we needed the reports. She asked what reports and we replied the schedules and hourly reports. Officer Mullins stated that they did not have schedules, only days that they worked. Mrs. Potts said that was the Officer Safety issue and they did not want people to know where they would be patrolling and that would be subject to FOIA. Trustee Nohl brought up that we were interested in after the fact reports. Chairman Edwards showed Mrs. Potts a copy of the report we received that only showed total hours and did not breakdown the hours between Goodfield and Deer Creek. She received a copy of the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

At 7:48pm the meeting was reconvened with the same people in attendance and Chief Potts. Chief Potts put two copies of a contract on the table and said we were to approve and sign the contract at Thursday's Board meeting or we would be without police protection. Chairman Edwards told him that we would look at it and discuss it on Thursday and the Village Board would make a decision then. Chief Potts, his wife and Officer Mullins then left. The committee discussed their proposal and made the following changes to paragraph 2 (see Existing contract attached to these minutes) and eliminate paragraph 3. A contract with these changes will be presented for Board approval on Thursday 4/18/19. If approved, the Board President will be authorized to sign it as well as the Village Clerk.

Para 2 should read as follows: In exchange for the payment described above, Deer Creek will perform an average of 50% of its monthly patrol hours within the Village of Goodfield and will include emergency services as necessary. Also, Deer Creek will continue to submit the current reports to include the total patrols hours within the Village of Goodfield for the previous month.