

Village of Goodfield

Police Committee Meeting

March 30, 2017 at the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Chairman Blake Otto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Committee members Terry Nohl and Wade Wettstein were present. Also present were Public Works Administrator Josh Nohl, Jim Edwards, Chief of Police Brad Potts, Assistant Chief Chris Meeks and Clerk Sheri Martin.

Present from Deer Creek were Police Committee Members Grant Hackney, Phil Calhoun, Ben Koch, Karl Eschelbach, Clerk Lori Lewis and Mary Eschelbach.

The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the 2017-2018 Police Contract. Prior to the meeting Chairman Otto sent an outline to Lori Lewis, Clerk and Chief Potts regarding the Proposed Police Contract – Points of Clarification. Included was the following:

- The proposed increase of \$20,008 per year over the current contract amount of \$72,100 amounts to a 27.75% increase. \$92,108 per year would not be a manageable rate at this time. The average yearly increase over the last 13 years has been 6%, over the last 5 years it has been 4.2% and over the last 3 years has been 5.3%. A 6% increase (\$4,326) may be reasonable for this year.
- Referring to the existing contract paragraph #4 states in part that “DEER CREEK assumes and shall be solely responsible for any and all liability, obligation to indemnify imposed by law, employee benefits, wage and disability payments, pension and worker’s compensation claims, etc.” With this language in mind, the insurance line item in the amount of \$12,283.04 would not necessarily align with the current agreement.
- Paragraph #7 of the existing contract states that “DEER CREEK will maintain control and discretion of its police department including all responsibility for providing and maintaining the squad car, equipment, training and officer’s schedules.” It appears a percentage of the contract increase reflects \$11,500 in new equipment and \$15,000 (per year?) for a new vehicle fund. If confirmed, this would fall outside of the scope of the contract.

Goodfield Police Committee Chairman Blake Otto said the Village is not willing to pay the 28% increase Deer Creek is asking for.

Chief Brad Potts said he did not expect this large of an increase but in preparing the budget the biggest increase arrived at line items by averaging the last six years expenses. For Communications/phones he added up actual cost. He added an in-car computer and radar – there are problems with the current ones. Insurance was added that was not included before. Revenue is down because tickets are down. Brad said equipment could be dropped but that will not change the budget a lot.

Blake Otto stated per the language of the contract Goodfield has a fee for service contract not a partnership. He asked what is the relationship between Deer Creek and Goodfield going forward.

Phil said budgets were missing items in previous years and asked if Goodfield would be willing to go with a 12-15% increase. He agreed 28% is too high.

Blake said Deer Creek Board has had ownership of the equipment and in the past Deer Creek has been concerned because it wasn't a partnership. So with not only the equipment put in the budget but the insurance also it looks like this is inching toward a partnership not a fee for service.

Chief Potts said he put together the budget and was not directed by Deer Creek Board to add equipment and insurance.

Deer Creek Clerk Lori Lewis stated contract says Deer Creek owns the Police Department and Deer Creek will take responsibility of equipment, etc. and Goodfield will have no liability. Deer Creek did not want large increases but now there is a large increase because of the new Chief. The Boards intent is not a 28% increase but they would like to negotiate.

Someone asked if the budget could be cutback.

Phil Calhoun stated this is a cost of business. Deer Creek has been covering these costs in the past years. He feels Goodfield should help cover expenses but does not feel 28% is right.

Jim Edwards stated everyone should consider Deer Creek and Goodfield are both different than they were 10 years ago. In the past they bought used vehicles and did their own repairs. On time they had an 11% increase because of the price of gas. Jim believes revenue has a lot to do with it.

Chief Potts feels there needs to be more communication between the two Boards.

Clerk Lori Lewis said she contacted other Villages that shared Police Departments and Chairman Otto said he has checked with comparisons also.

Chairman Otto said a decision does not have to be made tonight, but both police committees should go back and discuss with their Boards.

Phil Calhoun asked what Deer Creek Board needs to do at this point. Chairman Otto thought a manageable increase for this year would be 6%. Phil asked if over a 5 year period Goodfield would be willing to do a larger increase. Deer Creek wants to keep Police Contract with Goodfield. Both Boards need to look at options.

Wade Wettstein said Chief Potts did the right thing. He brought forth the budget/expenses. Now both Boards need to decide what they can do. The Police Contract has been a great thing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38p.m.

Blake Otto, Chairman