

Waterbury Police Study Committee Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2017
6:30pm

Location: Waterbury Municipal Offices Steele Room

Attendees: Mark Metayer, Michelle Baker, Melissa Moore, Paul O’Kane, Gary Dillon, Missy Gorham, Lefty Sayah, Harry Shepard, Alec Tuscany, Mark Frier, Robert Prall (public), Alyssa Johnson (RW, WADC)

General Discussion:

- a. Group introductions
- b. Committee goal
 - To explore and present at future public informational sessions options for police coverage once the Waterbury Village Police Department is phased out at the end of 2017
 - The public informational sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th at the Thatcher Brook Primary School, and Saturday, October 14th also at TBPS
- c. Overview of research topic areas and assignments
 - Teams of 2-3 will work together on four identified subjects and report back to the committee
 1. Demand for service (Marc and Gary)
 - a. Waterbury statistics (Vermont State Police & Waterbury Police Department- 5 year review
 - b. Comparison with similar Vermont communities (up to 5)
 - c. Police services budget impact in comparative communities
 2. Public Survey (Missy, Mark, Paul)
 - a. Electronic survey – online
 - b. Hard copy survey – mailed to registered voters
 3. Funding Sources (Harry, Michelle, Alec)
 - a. Property tax
 - b. Local option tax
 - c. Other options
 4. Police Services (Marc and Alec)
 - a. Establish range of options along with related costs & tax implications
 - VSP coverage – exclusively
 - VSP coverage with contracted supplemental patrols by VSP or Sheriff’s Department (for example, 10 hours per week)
 - VSP contracted primary coverage (80 hrs per week)

- Reinstate 2-person department with town-wide jurisdiction and VSP supplementation
 - Establish town-wide community police service scaled to estimated workload and service demand
- d. Further discussion and comments
- Reference- Hinesburg PD study, 2008
 1. http://www.hinesburg.org/police-public-safety-committee/appendix_h_independent_evaluation_of_law_enforcement_services_2009.pdf
 - Barre/Montpelier regionalized police concept study currently ongoing
 - Hardwick partnered with neighboring town for police
 - Local Option Tax
 1. What is it?
 - Local option tax (LOT) is a way for municipalities in Vermont to raise additional revenue OUTSIDE of property taxes. A municipality may vote to levy a 1% LOT in addition to state business taxes, i.e. 6% sales tax + 1% LOT = 7% total tax. Categories that can be considered for a LOT include :
 - Local Option Sales Tax
6% sales tax + 1% = 7% total tax
 - Local Option Meals Tax
9% meals tax + 1% = 10% total tax
 - Local Option Alcoholic Beverages Tax
10% alcohol tax + 1% = 11% total tax
 - Local Option Rooms Tax
9% rooms tax + 1% = 10% total tax
 2. The municipality keeps 70% of the revenue from the LOT and 30% goes to the state for administration and to support the state's payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) fund.
 3. Missy, Alyssa and Mark agreed and noted the following.
 - a. More in depth conversations regarding categories to be taxed, impacts on local businesses, uses of the funds, and if a town charter is required to enact a LOT all need to be considered.
 4. Enacting a LOT would likely be a several year process.

The committee discussed how to communicate to the public as this process is ongoing. The agenda and minutes (once finalized) will be available on the town website. The committee should direct inquiries to the site.

*Respectfully submitted on 8/29/17 by : Missy Gorham