

The following information was presented at a joint meeting of the Waterbury Select Board and Waterbury Village Trustees on November 6, 2017. The presentation was also recorded by video for local cable broadcast. To view the meeting, see:

<https://www.orcamedia.net/series/waterbury-municipal-meeting>

The Waterbury Police Services Study Committee was formed in August 2017 to research a variety of options for community police services, given the pending dissolution of the Waterbury Village Police Department (slated for the end of December 2017). The Study Committee researched several communities with similar populations, geographic size, and estimated work load. The research provided information to estimate relevant staffing size and operational expenses for community wide police services.

Two, public informational meetings were conducted in September and October. Background information was provided to attendees and a brief opinion poll was administered to gather relevant feedback from those in attendance. Approximately 80 people attended between the two sessions, and 59 people completed the opinion poll.

A publicized, online survey was conducted from September 23rd through October 22nd. The feedback received from this survey (370 respondents) and the feedback from the earlier opinion poll served as the basis for the recommendations offered by the Study Committee. A hypothetical, 5-year implementation plan was provided to initiate further discussion by the Select Board and by the community.

For more complete context, readers may review all documentation posted under the Police Services Study Committee section of the town website.

Order of presentation:

- 1) Review Poll Results – Public Informational Meetings**
- 2) Review of Survey Results – Survey Monkey/online**
- 3) Recommendations**

- 1) PLEASE RANK EACH OF THE THREE OPTIONS FOR POLICE SERVICES ACCORDING TO YOUR PREFERENCE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOXES:

RANKING	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
VSP ONLY CURRENT STAFFING NO CONTRACT	11%	20%	70%
VSP - RESIDENT TROOPER CONTRACT FOR 2 TPRS	44%	57%	0%
WATERBURY COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	48%	23%	29%

OPINION POLL GATHERED AT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

2) DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOWN-WIDE COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT? (CIRCLE CHOICE)

YES - 74%

NO – 26%

3) IF YES ON QUESTION #2, WOULD YOU SUPPORT USING THE VSP RESIDENT TROOPER CONTRACT OPTION DURING THE PROJECTED 3-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT?

YES – 95%

NO – 5%

4) IF NO ON QUESTION #2, WHICH REMAINING OPTION DO YOU PREFER?

(CIRCLE CHOICE: a; b; or c)

a. VSP ONLY – CURRENT STAFFING MODEL W/NO CONTRACT - 20%

b. VSP RESIDENT TROOPER CONTRACT – 2 TROOPERS – 80%

c. OTHER OPTION (Please describe): - 0%

OPINION POLL GATHERED AT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

- 5) IF WATERBURY WERE TO ESTABLISH A TOWN-WIDE COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF IMPLEMENTING A LOCAL OPTION TAX TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON YOUR PROPERTY TAX SHARE?

(CIRCLE CHOICE)

YES - **84%**

NO – **16%**

- 6) IF YES ON QUESTION #5, WHICH LOCAL OPTION TAX ARRANGEMENT WOULD YOU SUPPORT? (CIRCLE CHOICE: a; b; or c)

a) ROOMS/MEALS/ALCOHOL – **41%**

b) SALES – **4%**

c) BOTH IN COMBINATION – **55%**

OPINION POLL GATHERED AT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Waterbury Police Services Board Public Survey Results

October 24th 2017

Summary of Response

- 370 Responses
- 9 mins – Typical time to complete
- Breakdown of Respondents: (could select more than one answer)
 - 91.14% Resident of Waterbury
 - 12.34% Own a business in Wtby
 - 21.52% Work in Wtby
 - 43.04% Use business/services

Survey Significance

- Survey available from 9/23/17 to 10/22/17
- Notifications via facebook, front porch forum, Waterbury Record, Town of Waterbury website.
- Respondents 370
- Based on Waterbury's population this represents a good sample with a +/- 5% margin of error.

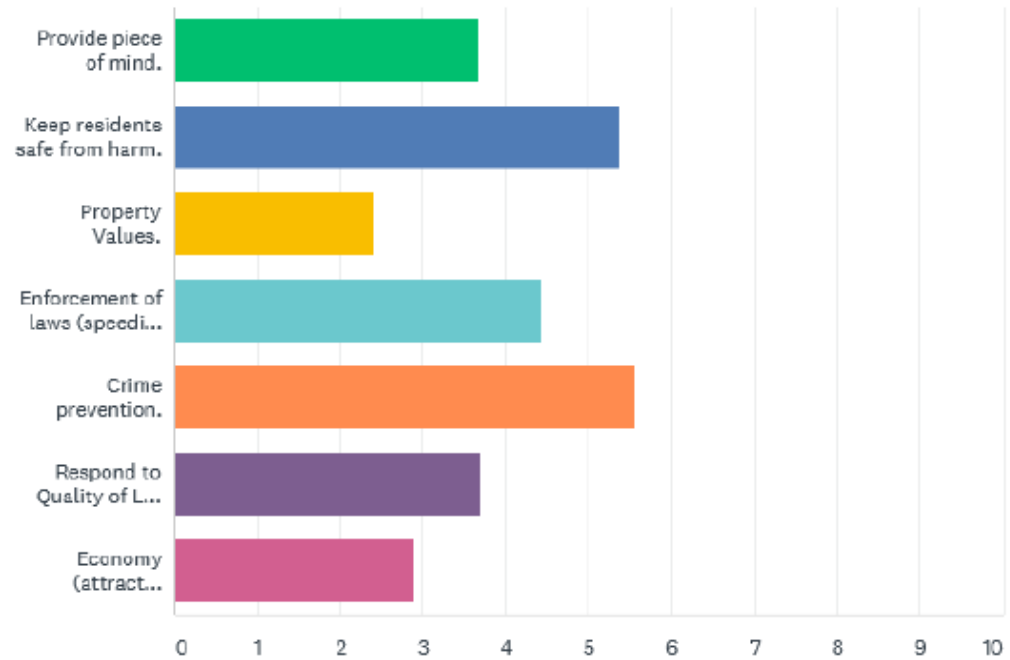
Knowledge & Awareness of current status.

- Awareness level of current police coverage provided by Waterbury Police Department:
 - 82.9% picked the accurate answer (Less than 24 hour coverage in the village only with VSP during non-covered hours)
- How many towns would Waterbury share VSP coverage with:
 - 38.92% (144) more than 15 towns (correct answer)
 - 21.08% (78) more than 10 towns
 - 19.73% (73) shared with adjoining towns
 - 1.89% (7) located in Waterbury
- Understanding of Vermont State Police Coverage Level & Hours:
 - 71.08% (263) showed a good understanding of VSP coverage.
- Aware that Waterbury Police will no longer be funded:
 - 98.07%(356) Yes

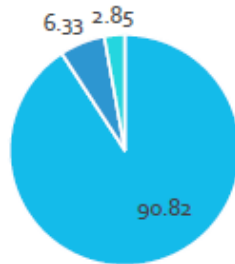
Police Satisfaction Level

- **Current Level of town wide (outside village) police service.**
 - Weighted average 2.88/5 or "Somewhat Satisfied"
- **Effectiveness of Waterbury Village Police coverage.**
 - Weighted average 2.29/5 or "not quite effective to meets min needs"
- **Personal interaction with Waterbury Village Police**
 - 56.63% Yes
 - Weighted average 2.47/3 or "neutral to positive"
- **Personal interaction with Vermont State Police**
 - 50.28% Yes
 - Weighted average 2.54/3 or "neutral to positive"

Ranking of why Waterbury Police Coverage is important?

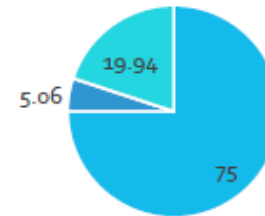


Waterbury is a safe place to live or work in.



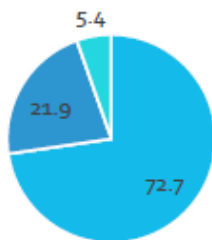
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

Waterbury is a safe place to own a business.



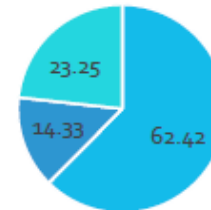
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

Waterbury needs a town wide police force.



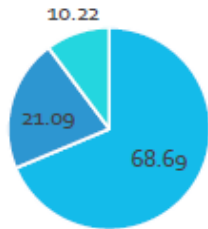
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

Crime will continue to grow in Waterbury



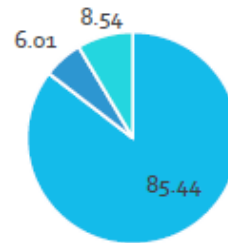
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

I would like to see a stronger police presence in Waterbury



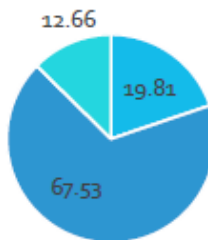
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

I am willing to consider options proposed by the Police Cmte



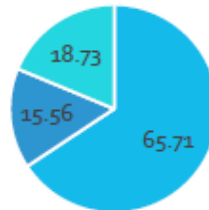
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

Waterbury does not need additional coverage than what it has today.



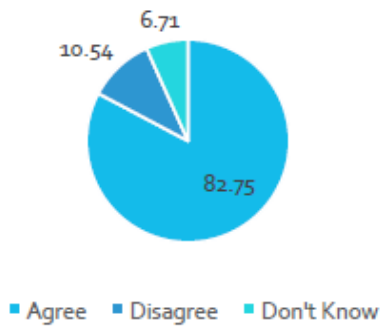
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

I would like to see more community policing

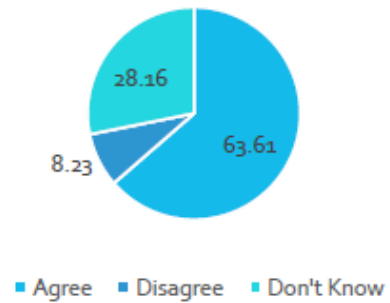


■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Don't Know

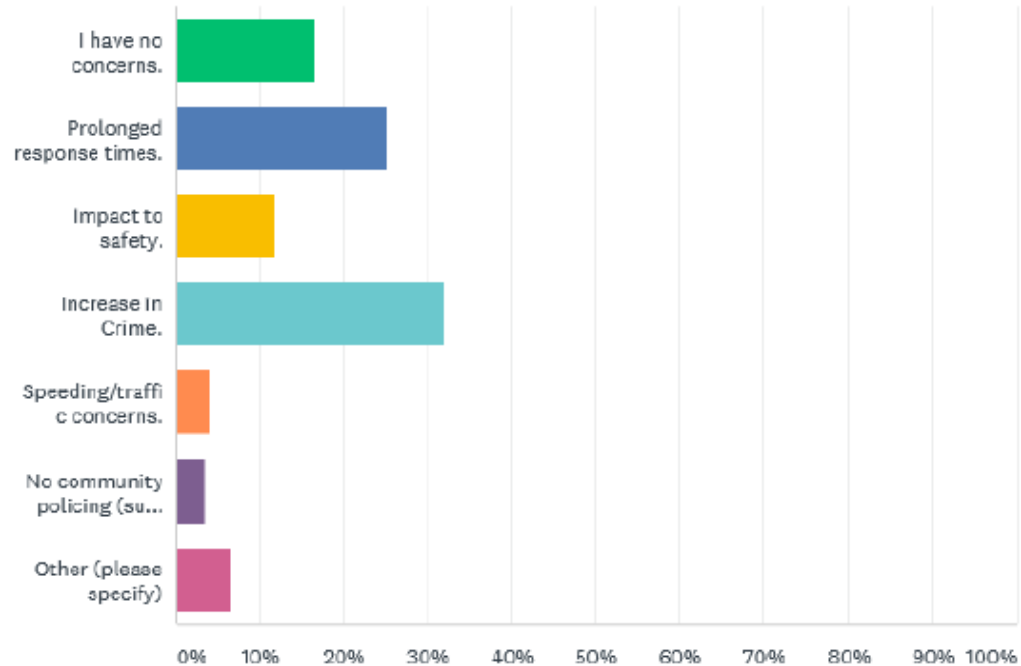
I am concerned about the drug crisis impact on Waterbury



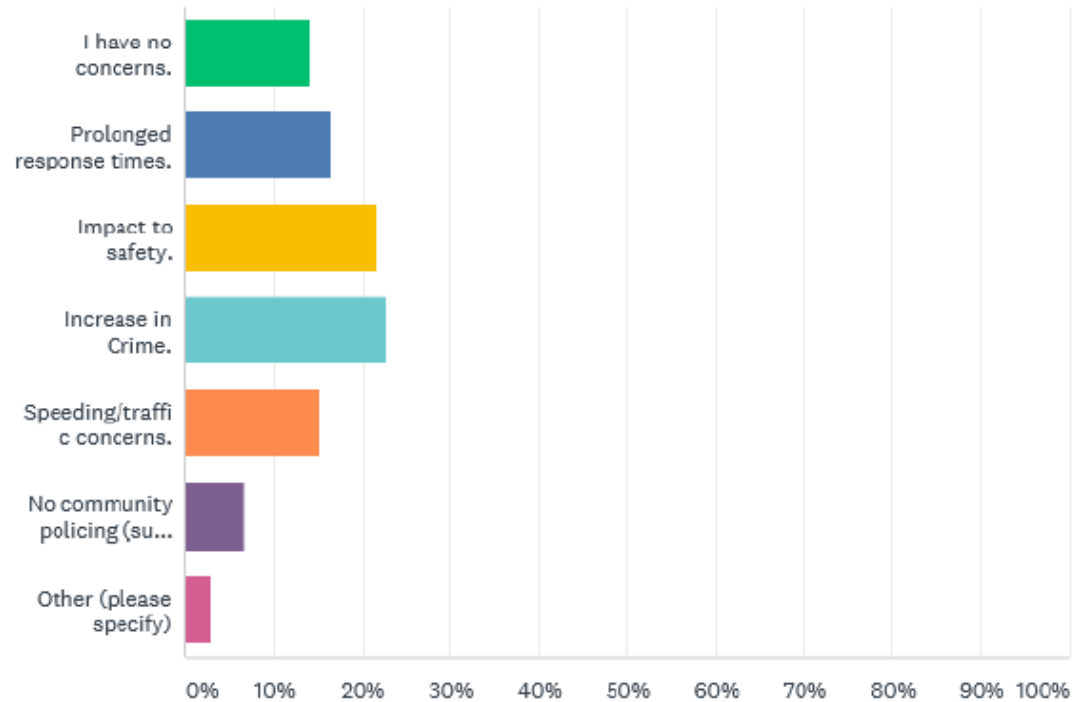
The WPSC is doing the necessary research...



Primary Concern about having no dedicated police in Waterbury.

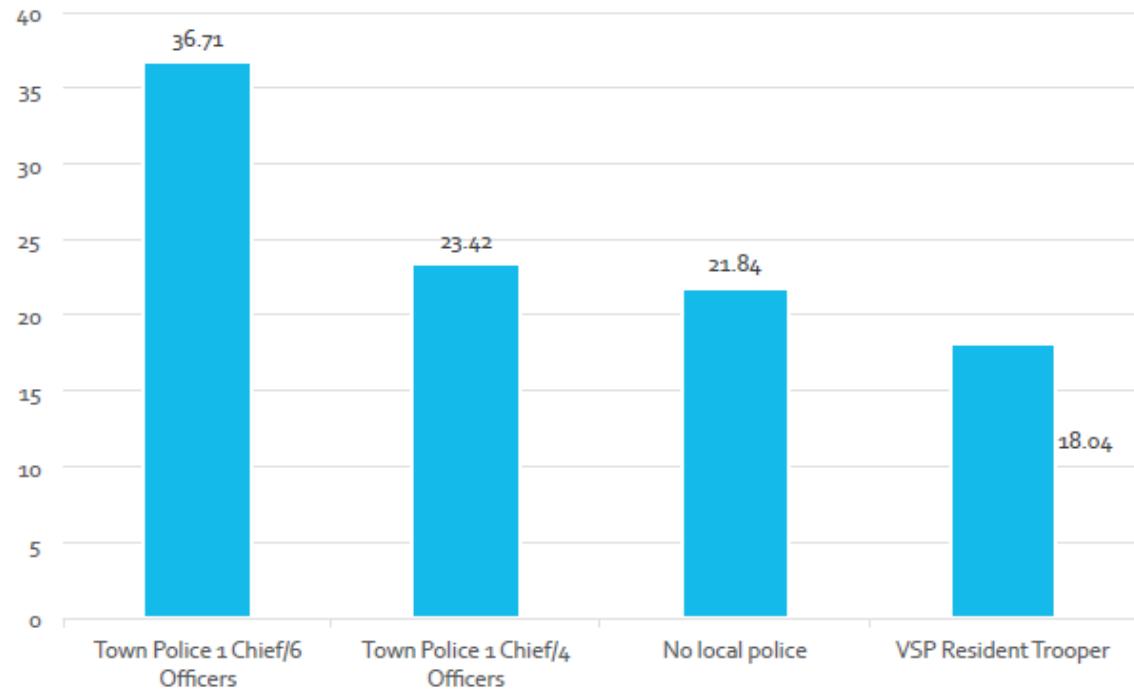


Secondary Concern about having no dedicated police in Waterbury.



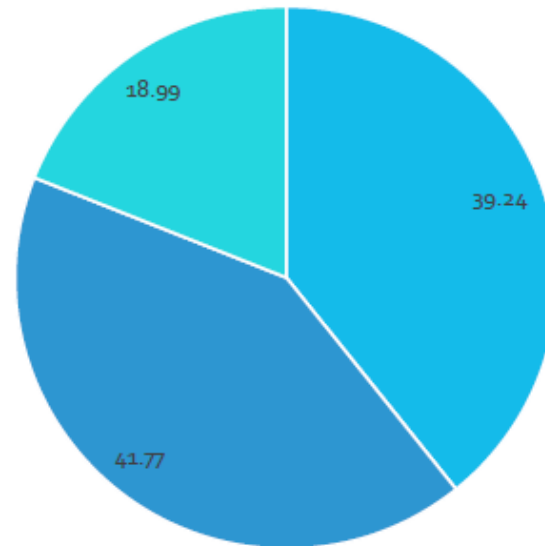
Most Preferred Police option

Selected as Most Preferred Police Option



Local Option Tax

Would consider a local option tax to support Police Services



■ Very Likely ■ Somewhat Likely ■ Not Likely

Recommendations:

- #1 – Establish a town-wide, community police service
- #2 – Use VSP Resident Trooper option during the development phase
- #3 – Initiate steps to explore a local option tax to mitigate property tax share

Hypothetical 5-Year Implementation Plan

YEAR – 2018: \$350,000

- Advertise for, and hire a chief of police
 - Establish a community advisory board to assist with basic development steps
 - Hiring review criteria
 - Hiring process assistance
 - Focus on policy development and operational issues

- Contract with VSP for 3-yr, Resident Trooper pilot project
 - Two Troopers assigned to provide direct services to Waterbury
 - Start date of July results in ½ year expense during 2018 ($\$365\text{K}/2 = \$180\text{K}\sim$)

- Use existing police department office space for Troopers & chief
- Retain better cruiser for use by chief (unmarked)
- Assess serviceability of remaining police equipment and re-issue as appropriate

Hypothetical 5-Year Implementation Plan

YEAR – 2019: \$645,000

- Full year of Resident Trooper pilot (\$365K)
- Full year of chief (salary/equipment/office) (\$150K)
- Hiring process and employ 2 full-time officers (\$130K) (may be staggered over the year)
- Begin patrol coverages as certification/training is completed
- **Develop proposed local option tax plan??**

YEAR – 2020: \$859,000

- Full year of Resident Trooper pilot (\$365K) (may be reduced as PD staffing occurs)
- Full year of chief and 2 officers (\$364K)
- Hiring process and employ 2 full-time officers (\$130K) (may be staggered over the year)
- Increased patrol coverage provided by PD
- **Voter approval/Legislative approval of LOT??**

Hypothetical 5-Year Implementation Plan

YEAR – 2021: \$882,000 (\$702,000 - ??)

- Half-year of Resident Trooper pilot (\$180K~) (may be optional or transitioned out)
- Full year of chief and 4 officers (\$572K)
- Hiring process and employ 2 full-time officers (\$130K) (may be staggered over the year)
- Full patrol coverage provided by PD
- **Implement LOT??**

YEAR – 2022: \$750,000 - \$800,000

- Full year of chief and 6 officers (full staffing)
- Full patrol coverage provided by PD