

VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

May 18, 2015

Mr. Shelton called the meeting to order. Fiscal Officer Hastings took roll call with the following members present: Mr. Sadler, Mr. Laxton, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Wissinger. Mayor Hammond, Chief Jordan and Solicitor Hess were also present. Engineer Grosse and Ms. Evans were absent.

Mr. Wissinger made a motion seconded by Mr. Geiger to approve the April 20, 2015 COW Minutes. All members were in favor with the exception of Mr. Shelton who abstained. The motion passed.

Solicitor Hess had no report this evening.

Mayor Hammond advised Council that he had sworn in two reserve officers. He said they were officers that had applied for the paid position. He said they will begin their training. Mayor Hammond said the streets will be swept once school is out. Mr. Shelton said Officer Waas and Officer Owen are the two new officers.

Engineer Grosse was absent so no report.

Mr. Shelton asked if anyone had any additional items. Mr. Sadler said he would like to talk about the police department. He said we have two open positions at the present time. He said there is a motion to abolish the department that has been tabled. He said Council's hands are tied. He suggested getting rid of the tabled motion so that Council can move forward and fill the two open positions. Mr. Sadler asked Solicitor Hess what Council's options are with the tabled item. Solicitor Hess said it needs to be brought off the table and a vote needs to be made to either approve it or disapprove it. Mr. Sadler asked if it is taken off the table, is that considered a second reading. Mayor Hammond said a vote was already taken to waive the three readings. Solicitor Hess said he would want another vote to waive the three readings. Mayor Hammond asked if it was voted on to remove it from the table, would that be considered the second reading. Solicitor Hess said that it would be considered the second reading. Mr. Sadler said we can't hire for the two positions with the tabled item still there. Mayor Hammond recommends removing the item from the table and move forward. Chief Jordan said he is in a good position with it being summer because it is a good time for training to begin. Mr. Shelton said we are two weeks away from Homecoming and contracting with the Sheriff. He suggested starting the reserve officers on June 1, 2015 and let them ride along with our Police Chief and the Sheriff Deputies for training. Mayor Hammond recommends not bringing them on until the "tabled" item is resolved. Mr. Shelton said nothing has been decided as to how Council wants to move forward. Mr. Sadler said the community is in favor of keeping our own department and not contracting with the Sheriff. Solicitor Hess wanted to clarify what Mr. Shelton was suggesting. He feels he was suggesting bringing them on with the knowledge of possible disbandment. Mr. Shelton agreed that was what he was implying. He said if we would bring them on and then decide to disband the department, at least they would have some training under their belt. He said if we keep our department, we are ahead of the game. Chief Jordan said he feels both of these officers would come on board with the potential of abolishment. Mr.

Shelton asked if they could work one week with Chief Jordan and one week with a Sheriff Deputy. Chief Jordan said that was his plan.

Mr. Laxton said if Chief Jordan feels these two officers will come on board and train with him and the Sheriff, then he agrees. Mr. Geiger said he would like to move forward with the two potential officers however he disagrees with Mr. Sadler that the residents want to keep our own department. He said Chief Jordan lacks leadership however did make a step in the right direction with the recommendation on Officer Greathouse. Mr. Geiger said he would like to see more of this leadership.

Mr. Wissinger said we have been talking and dealing with this for the last 3 ½ years. He suggested doing a blended department of both Commercial Point Officers and Sheriff Deputies. He suggested that the Safety Committee take a look at call reports to figure out what is needed for our Village. Mr. Wissinger said he had no issues with Chief Jordan.

Mr. Shelton said a blended department had been suggested before. He wants what is the best interest for the Village. Mr. Geiger said he wasn't against blended department. He said that he liked the leadership he saw out of Chief Jordan this evening. Mr. Sadler said that comments like what Mr. Geiger just made make it seem like he is against the Chief. Mr. Geiger said he is not against the Chief personally but against the department.

Mr. Shelton suggested setting up a Safety Committee Meeting. Solicitor Hess suggested inviting a rep from the Sheriff's Department. A Safety Committee Meeting has been scheduled for May 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Fiscal Officer Hastings will post the meeting notice.

Mr. Shelton suggest hosting a Zoning Committee meeting. One was scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Fiscal Officer Hastings will post the meeting notice.

Mr. Sadler asked if the new reserve officers could come to the next Regular Council Meeting so they could be introduced to Council. Chief Jordan said he would pass the message along.

Mr. Laxton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

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Randy Shelton, President of Council

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Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer