

Town Council Minutes
April 12, 2023

Councilors present:

Michael Perkins, Chairman
Robert Nutting
David Groder

Dana Wrigley
Donald Borman

Others present:

Ella Bowman, Town Manager
Janice Porter, Town Clerk
Jason Turner
Boyd Snowden, Municipal Engineer
Superintendent Carl Gartley

Chief Michael Tracy
Laura Tracy
Rick Stubbert, Deputy Chief
Officer Tiffani Warren
Zara Norman, Sentinel Reporter

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of the past meetings and signing the weekly warrant.
2. Chief Tracy and Deputy Chief Stubbert introduced our new hire, as a full-time police officer, Tifani Warren. Ms. Warren comes to the department with seven (7) years of experience with the Town of Skowhegan. This recent hire brings the department fully staffed.
3. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 approving the addition of a third resource officer for RSU 18. Currently the existing SRO's (two positions) are funded at 75% from the school and 25% funded by Oakland. Those positions work during the summer for the department along with anything needed by the school. The third position will be totally funded by RSU#18. Chief Tracy stated that the three (3) officers will rotate use of the two existing vehicles currently being used by the SROs. The Town Manger stated that the proposed municipal budget has already been finalized. A meeting of the Budget and Advisory Committee will be called to vote on a second Town Meeting in June.

Note: After the council meeting our office discussed possible options that would allow this change to be made to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. It was found that because the Annual Town Meeting warrant had not been posted we could make a change to an existing article, after Council approval and a recommendation from the Budget and Advisory Committee. The council gave their approval at the April 12th meeting. A meeting of the B&A Committee was called, and they too voted in favor of Article 9 as revised. The article increased the SRO officer line but because of the SRO reimbursement the amount to be raised by taxation in Article 9. remains the same at \$906,525. See attached article as reference.

4. Chief Tracy and Deputy Chief Stubbert addressed the status of the Department.

Chief commented that some of the greatest challenges at this time are:

Retaining and hiring of police officers.

The mental health of our community in relation to responding to incidents, and drug incidents. Police responding to these calls are now spending more time with each call and at times are very

dangerous. Co-responders educated in mental health would be a benefit when responding to issues of this type.

In the next three (3) to five (5) years the department will be required to update the departments' IMC (Information Management Corporation) software, at this time the cost is unknown.

Accreditation - Currently the department is working on accreditation which includes higher education for all employees and thus gaining a higher level of expertise and adopting and maintaining standardized policies and procedures.

5. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to approve advertising for a seasonal part time assistant to the Environmental Services Department for the summer. Boyd noted that a number of projects will be completed this summer that will require the additional manpower.
6. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to appoint Rick MacKenzie, for a three-year (3) term, as a member of the Planning Board.
7. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to write off property taxes on the following tax acquired property : RE Account 2082, Smithfield Road, Map/Lot 033-031-3 which was acquired by foreclosure December 2022.
8. It was moved by Robert Nutting seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 5-0 authorizing the Town Manager to sign the one (1) year contract with Delta ambulance, effective July 1, 2023, which specifies a provision of services that the town shall pay to Delta an annual fee as follows: Year 1: \$15.00 per capita. The town of Oakland is not liable to Delta for any patient charge without the town's prior consent.
9. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to approve the renewal of the Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit for the Pressey House.
10. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to approve the sewer commitment in the amount of \$137,167.76 for the period of January 1st through March 31st, 2023.

Adjournment: It was moved by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:50 pm.