

Town Wide Police District Study Committee

Members: Bruce Nason, Reg Dearborn, Annie Denny, Dave Cobb, John Moyers, Joel Bouvier

Public: Jim Quaglino, Slim Pickens

The committee introduce themselves.

Bruce Nason discussed the history of work completed going Town Wide along with the proposed timeline. Dave Cobb clarified what the current situation with the district and non-district residents receive. Bruce explained town contract versus responding as mutual aid for the State Police as requested.

Annie Denny asked about the shortened timeline. Bruce Nason explained by using the proposed timeline, this could allow for a town wide district to be in place as soon as July 1, 2020.

Dave Cobb asked if they are unsatisfied with State Police District Services. Bruce Nason clarified the services are somewhat different. The Police Department contracts currently with the town to perform traffic patrol outside the district, while the State Police are responding to requests and calls as needed or using the Bristol Police Department for mutual aid if they cannot get there in time.

John Moyers asked what the goal was? Is it going town wide? What are the implications of that?

The group discussed the merger, and what requirements would be needed to be done. Jen Myers explained she had read the merger document, but was hoping someone else would also do that, so there might be consensus on what would need to be done. Her understanding was they could do one of two things, vote to expand the district, which would include the voters of the district and the voters included in the expansion, if the special service district was not going to go town wide, or to vote to disband the Police District which would implement the town wide police department. The group agreed to get confirmation from Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns.

Eric Carter expressed the importance of surveying the people. A lot of changeover has happened since the last survey completed in 2012. This can help provide guidance on what the feelings of the people are. The group discussed the advantages of the survey. Identifying the concerns of those who are opposed, how can we help address those concerns or gather more information to provide about the concerns.

Annie Denny asked about coverage now. What would be needed to be added to the current budget to make going town wide work? Bruce Nason explained at this time he believes they will need to add one full time officer. Annie Denny asked if that would be able to offer enough coverage for everyone? Bruce Nason discussed calls, responses, etc. Dave Cobb asked about State Police personnel and how it has changed over the year. Bruce Nason said he has a meeting with the State Police in the next week to have this discussion with them.

Eric Carter suggested a small expansion, not the entire town, but just outside. Joel Bouvier felt this needed to be sold as an investment versus a cost implication. Annie Denny suggested reviewing all the options on the table. John Moyers asked about contracting with the Addison County Sheriff's office for specific services. Annie Denny will go talk to Peter Newton to see what they have to offer. When

Bruce Nason meets with the State Police, he will ask them about their long-range plan and what they could offer if there was no police service in Bristol.

John Moyers is willing to spear head the survey process. Jen Myers will send along via email the copies of the previous two surveys completed to the group.

Public Forum discussion. Slim Pickens felt this is something that needed to happen because the non-district residents are getting service based on traveling through the Police District, everyone should have to pay for that.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm