

Town Wide Police District Study Committee, September 25, 2019

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

Public: Jim Quaglino

Bruce Nason called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Bruce started by clarifying there would be no loss in service from the State Police Service. John asked if they would continue to dispatch. Bruce said yes, the advantage of going town wide would be a local response and more patrol.

Bruce was referring to Survey draft 3, page 2 in regards to the new services. All those that were listed are services that are currently offered, but potentially would be referred to a State department who might finish or handle the issue. Dave Sharpe said people potentially are more interested in quality of life services.

Dave Cobb asked about the long-term plan of the State Police. Bruce said he did meet with the Lieutenant. They plan to keep the same number of positions. It does tend to fluctuate based on employees leaving, but at this time they plan to continue maintaining the same number of positions.

Dave Sharpe asked what the problem we are trying to solve is. Jen explained she thought the survey was to help identify the problem solving. Bruce said the groups who had previously worked on this had done many surveys, but never voted.

Jen explained the timeline issue and when potential implementation would be based on voting during certain times. Based on the merger document this vote would be a Special Town Meeting or a regularly scheduled Town Meeting vote, which means voters would be participating from the floor versus an Australian Ballot. The committee agreed to review the timeline at a future meeting and continue working on the survey.

Dave Sharpe had reached out to the Vergennes Police Department. He explained the expense Vergennes taxpayers are facing with the increased Police District costs. He explained Waterbury scenario and working with the State police has left many unsatisfied.

The committee continues discussion about the survey. Jim Quaglino said number one concern was cost.

Jen will revamp the survey based on discussion throughout the meeting and redistribute to the committee for review at its next meeting, to be held October 2, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.