

Village of Harveysburg

Police Committee

March 14, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Members Present:

- Kim Herberth -- Chairwoman
- Charles Juniel
- Mark Tipton
- Richard Pottenger – Police Chief

Absent:

- Mayor Richard Verga

Village Staff Present:

- Phil Trovillo – Chairman, Streets & Buildings
- Heather Matuszak – Clerk of Council

Visitors / Guests: NONE

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*This is a summary of the meeting of the Harveysburg Police Committee held March 14, 2022, at 6:30 PM.
Upon request, a recording of the meeting is available for review.*
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Chairwoman Kim Herberth called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Roll Call: Herberth, Tipton, Juniel, Pottenger

Committee takes a moment to review February 28, 2022 Police Committee Minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Tipton to approve February 28, 2022 Police Committee Minutes. Second by Mr. Juniel. Vote – Herberth, Tipton, Juniel, Pottenger – Aye, Nay – None. Motion passed.

Harveysburg PD report: Chief Pottenger

Chief Pottenger begins his report:

-Vehicle #2 had two batteries replaced and a bypass fitting replaced by County. The cost was \$350. The cost was over what is allowed (\$250). Chief Pottenger called Mayor Verga for permission to pay the additional \$100.

-Vehicle #1 has been returned with new mount and onboard computer.

-He would like to request approval for the holsters (5), mics (5), and D-rings (12) to accompany the new radios. Equipment will be provided by County and the cost will be \$60/holster, \$110/mic, and \$13/d-ring. The total cost will be \$1,006.

Motion made by Mr. Tipton to recommend to the Village Council to purchase the Holsters, mics and d-rings for Harveysburg PD. Second by Mr. Juniel. Vote – Herberth, Tipton, Juniel, Pottenger – Aye, Nay – None. Motion passed.

-We are still citing speeds over 70mph on SR 73.

-The Lieutenant is still looking into what OPOTA mandates he is certified to teach. Using eOPOTA, officers can complete many mandates online. The Ethics paperwork will be distributed to all officers at the department meeting. They will sign the receipt and it will be placed into their folders.

-We still need to adopt the 2022 Ohio Basic Code for Village enforcement.

-Two officers resigned: Officer Zeigert and Officer Payne. Officer Payne has not turned in his badge. Officer Zeigert has not turned in his badge, vest, or ID. Chief Pottenger is making arrangements with both officers to return PD issued property.

-He would like approval to order ammunition through Kiesler before March 31, 2022. After this date, the price is expected to increase by 20% with the next contract. If we order now, delivery is expected to take a year. Cost for 1,000 rounds of 9mm and 40cal is under current contract for \$419 and 250 rounds of 12ga #4 buck is \$128. The total cost would be \$547. Chief Pottenger would like to double the order for 9mm and 40cal based on the expected increase in the cost of ammunition.

-Chief Pottenger asks if the auxiliary officers need to clock in and out since they are unpaid.

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Chief Pottenger states that approximately 3 years ago it was agreed at Village Council that Officer Cruse could suspend his police officer duties to respond to a fire/rescue call. When it is not within the Village, he does not get paid. He makes the choice of responding to a call or not. He is not able to clock out and in to respond to a fire call. Chief Pottenger would like to know how that should be addressed.

Mr. Tipton responds that they have not been informed that Officer Cruse had the ability to perform police duties and fire duties while working during his scheduled time as a police officer for Harveysburg PD. He states it is not reflected in the minutes of this agreement. He also states that when Officer Cruse was presented for full-time employment the agreement for double duty was not presented again and is not valid.

Mr. Tipton states that previous employees who tried working double duties did not work out well. He states if this has a chance of working, an arrangement will need to be made between Massie Twp. and the Village of Harveysburg.

Chief Pottenger states the only time Officer Cruse has been paid for squad runs while on duty is when the call falls within the Village limits. He states when it was originally discussed Officer Cruse was a paid part-time employee.

Mr. Tipton states this is something that needs to be revisited. Massie Twp. is talking about going from volunteer to paid employees. It will need to be discussed how they reimburse the Village for having Officer Cruse “on call” while he is on duty for Harveysburg PD.

Chief Pottenger expresses that it is a matter of public safety to have Officer Cruse respond as a firefighter while on duty as a police officer within Village limits.

Mr. Tipton would like to discuss with Village Council how they would like to handle Officer Cruse making fire runs while on duty.

Ms. Herberth asks Chief Pottenger how he believes we can make this work. Chief Pottenger responds that it is of his opinion that Officer Cruse can make a difference in squad response time (5-8 minutes) to a call within the Village versus waiting on Chester Twp. to respond (15 minutes).

Ms. Herberth asks how Chief Pottenger thinks we can make the time clock work for squad runs. Chief Pottenger has no opinion because he has not had experience with using a time clock with other departments. He has been basing time via DARs. Officer Cruse logs his time on a fire run and Chief Pottenger will subtract that time from his on duty pay. He notifies County Dispatch when he is switching roles as well.

Mr. Tipton states we need to make a distinction between calls inside the Village and calls that fall within Massie Twp. He states he cannot argue about responding to calls within Village limits. However, outside the Village it becomes a liability issue when an on duty officer leaves their jurisdiction for a fire call.

Ms. Herberth asks if County Dispatch will send a Sheriff’s Deputy in the event an officer is unavailable. Chief Pottenger responds that they will dispatch a deputy for emergency calls and non-emergency calls will be stacked on the officer until he returns to service.

Mr. Trovillo states he believes the issue would come with response times. It would take a deputy longer to respond to the Village depending on their location and if they are on another call then it would take a Harveysburg Officer to respond if they were in the Village.

Mr. Tipton again states it is a matter to be discussed with Village Council and Massie Twp. It becomes a liability issue for the residents when the officer leaves the Village limits. We have a responsibility to our residents to keep them safe. Massie Twp. is also making money every time they make a squad run.

Ms. Herberth asks how we can make this conversation happen. Chief Pottenger responds that we can attend a Massie Twp meeting or he can meet with the Fire Chief. He states he would like to see Officer Cruse still be able to respond to fire calls within Village limits.

Mr. Tipton states he can talk to Massie Twp. trustees as he sees them in order to figure out how to go about an agreement. Chief Pottenger also says he can talk with them as he sees them.

Mr. Tipton states this will take multiple meetings to discuss and come to an agreement.

Mr. Trovillo asks Chief Pottenger if he has considered push bars for the cruisers to prevent major damage from deer strikes. He references seeing a Clearcreek Twp. cruiser completely totaled from hitting a deer at just 40mph.

Chief Pottenger states he did not consider them before because he did not want officers pushing cars with them. He also states that if they were to install push bars on cruisers, he could write a policy to prohibit using them to push cars.

Motion made to adjourn at 6:59pm by Mr. Juniel. Second by Mr. Tipton. Passed by voice vote.

Attest:

Heather Matuszak, Clerk of Council

Mayor Richard Verga

Kim Herberth, Chairwoman of Police Committee

Mark Tipton, Member Police Committee

Charles Juniel, Member Police Committee

Richard Pottenger, Police Chief