Town of Bath Public Safety Committee Agenda

September 13, 2023, at 4:00pm

Town of Bath Municipal Center

1. Meeting called to order by Scott Merki
2. Members in attendance:

Commissioner Scott Merki

Chief Wm Carper

Greg Schene

Sandra Venuto

Mary Lynn Hickey

Susan Webster

1. Quorum - Yes
2. Meeting Items covered this week:
3. Chief’s Corner was discussed including what everyone’s idea of what it should look like. It was determined that it should be based on what Chief Carper sees as an issue regarding ordinances that need to be addressed. It was also determined that it should be once a month. It is something that the department will work on doing once more staffing is in place.
4. The Wilkes Street Letter is almost finished being written. The admin will be reaching out to Peter Brown for a little more detail on dates and the reasoning behind the issue. Once completed it will be sent to the Public Safety Committee for approval, put in front of the Council for approval and signing, and then sent out.
5. The Stats for August was given to the attendees, and they were able to ask questions on what the different statistics meant. Chief Carper answered the questions and let them know that the categories may change depending on what is needed for the town.
6. The Police Department has open positions and is actively hiring both a part time patrolman and a parking enforcement officer.
   1. Packet of marketing flyers given to attendees showing open officer positions in surrounding counties and the Morgan County Sheriff’s Department. The Chief highlighted the pay disparity between the different departments and how this will affect the hiring of long-term officers.
   2. Chief Carper let them know that the city of Shepherdstown, WV was approximately where Berkeley Springs, WV is ten years ago. That police department runs with a Chief, Admin, four Officers, and parking enforcement which allows them to run the office 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.
   3. Councilman Greg brought up the suggestion for an auxiliary force in the town, which goes through training first. An auxiliary force would need to have a police officer on the job at the time they are working so that is untenable at this time.
7. The Job Description for Chief in the Town of Bath Ordinance is for an administrative and leadership position, but he is currently working in the patrolman capacity as well.
8. Councilman Greg stated that he would like a formal letter from Chief Carper on what he needs for the department staffing wise so he can then look at the numbers and figure out how to make that work.
9. Chief Carper briefly discussed the ordinances for the police department and how updating is needed.
10. Councilman Greg and Councilwoman Mary Lynn brought up the raising of the prices on the parking tickets. Councilman Greg asked the admin to find the ordinance for the Parking Meters which includes the fees and send it over to him. The admin let the committee know that letters are now being sent to citizens that have not been paying for their parking tickets.
11. Passport was brought up for the meters and it was decided to have the meeting/info call with the salesperson so we can get the ball rolling. Passport uses app stickers which are placed on every meter, and they get a % of the pay when using the app option.
12. The sidewalk issue for a citizen’s business was addressed. It was decided that the town would send a letter to the business, cc’ing the owner of the building. Once the letter is served and the deadline passed with no action, the police will address.
13. Adjourned