

Minutes
Town Government Study Committee
May 19, 2011
7:00 pm
Town House, Room 203

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Keith Elder, Jean Landis Naumann, Wendell Chamberlain, Ken Stevens, Richard Dennehy, Mary O'Donnell, Frances Botelho-Hoeg

Members absent: Paul Tura, Bob Ward

On a motion by Richard Dennehy, seconded by Wendell Chamberlain, the minutes of May 5, 2011 were approved as written. Vote: unanimous

APPOINTMENT WITH CHIEF REBELLO:

Chief Rebello met with the Committee and shared the following comments:

- He has been the chief of police for 6 years
- The Kingston Police department is a full service police department. If you call 911 you get Kingston police. The police dispatcher sends out police and fire on 911 calls.
- Police go out on medical calls. Will be doing emergency medical dispatch in the future. Cannot provide it now as there is only one dispatcher. On July 1, 2011 grant money will be available to provide this service.
- Presently contract with AMR for emergency medical dispatch. Funded by the 911 charge on the phone bills. There is presently \$40,000,000 in that fund.
- Kingston received \$7000 for dispatch training as well as money for furnishings and equipment for the dispatch office. Materials and equipment purchased with these 911 funds must stay in the dispatch room
- Presently conducting a study with Plympton, Halifax, and Duxbury on regionalization of dispatch centers for 911. Governor is in favor of these Regional Emergency Centers. The cost to Kingston for a Regional Emergency Center would be about \$250,000.
- Kingston Police have documented "business calls" The present number is 71,000 calls per year
- Hingham has received \$5,000,000 for their center.
- In order for a REC to be of monetary benefit to a town, the community needs to shut their station down. The system adds more steps.
- The Town would have to approve the system.
- Presently, Kingston has 6 dispatchers and 22 officers. They are usually down 2 officers due to injury or other issues. They maintain 3 officers and a supervisor on the daytime and early evening shifts, and 2 officers a supervisor on the late night shift.
- They do not always have the funding to keep an optimum level of staffing. Ideally it would be 4 officers and a supervisor.
- The police department is the only Civil Service department in the Town. If a person retires the chief must get the list for replacements from Civil service. This can take 6-9 months. Towns must do all of the paperwork for hiring from Civil Service as Civil Service funds have been cut. The process can be cumbersome.
- The Chief has to negotiate with 4 unions-officers, sergeants, lieutenants, and dispatchers. The special police officers are not unionized or Civil Service. Permanent Intermittent officers are Civil Service. The Chief and the Town Administrator conduct the negotiations. The Lieutenants have not had a contract in 5 years. However they do have a built in increase-if the Sergeants get an increase, the Lieutenants do as well.
- Communities do not have to participate in Civil Service.
- Under Civil Service the Chief can only give a 5 day suspension.
- Our chief is a "strong chief". He can put forward policies to the Selectmen. They have 30 days to approve or the requests become automatic. The Fire Chief is also a strong chief.
- The Chief interviews a minimum of 3 Civil Service candidates and sends one name forward to the Selectmen for appointment.
- Coordination and cooperation between departments is a 5. The police department works well with fire,

- streets trees and parks (DPW), water department, Treasurer, and the Accountant.
- 2010 statistics for the police department are: 16,818 response calls, 4,872 emergency 911 calls, and 70,091 business calls.
 - Resources score a 3 because staffing levels are a problem. When calls come in the department is out straight.
 - Kingston provides mutual aid to Halifax and Plympton. Pembroke and Duxbury provide mutual aid to Kingston. Plymouth does not provide aide
 - Very little of the budget is technology. They spend \$6-7,000 to have computers linked up. There is a \$25,000 line item for technology. \$18,000 is dedicated to upgrades and repairs. Presently have a 5 years left on a 10 year lease purchase with IMC. The department has its own server for the IMC system and for email. The Fire Department server is also housed in the Police Department. They have a contract with Steve Dudash to repair when needed.
 - All technology decisions rest with the Chief. The Lieutenants and the Chief have “android” phones
 - The department presently belongs to the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC). It costs \$1,000 per year. Shared services include SWAT Teams, Search and Rescue Teams, Dive Teams.
 - The department needs cars. They could work with 2 new cars, 3 would be best. The cruisers are spread out and assigned to 2 officers on rotating shifts so the cars are not run into the ground. Radios and cars are assigned so that the officers will take better care of them. They spend a lot of time maintaining the fleet so that the cars will remain safe and in good running order.
 - Sampson Fund gave the department money for tactical vests. There is a 50/50 split in Federal and State funds to provide vests for officers. You must have a vest wear policy in order to get state and federal funding for vests.
 - There are issues with the setup of the building. The leaky roof was replaced at a cost of \$17,000. A mold issue existed as a result of the roof repair. The insurance took care of the mold remediation. Electrical upgrades had to take place in order to remedy surge issues. The Permanent Building Committee has played little or no role in building issues. It took 3 years to get the roof replaced.
 - The building is not adequate. There are concerns with the cells. They could be condemned by the State as they consider the cells unsafe. The cells have been retrofitted, but there are still “hanging risks” in the building.
 - The canine officer exists as a result of fundraising to purchase Oliver. Funds were also raised to purchase a “hot dog system” to keep the dog cool or to release the dog when needed. Oliver has been effective in stolen car apprehensions, house break apprehensions, and stolen merchandise apprehensions.
 - The Quinn Bill allows the following: Associates degree-10%, Bachelors-20%, and Masters-25%. The Town pays 50% and the State paid 50%. The State has now abandoned the Quinn Bill program, leaving the Town to pay 100%.
 - The personal services budget is a little over \$2,000,000 and covers all employees, overtime, holiday pay, and court pay. One court case can result in several visits to court at a minimum of 4 hours pay.
 - The Chief feels that Town Meeting is an antiquated way to run the Town and is not very efficient.

On a motion by Mary O’Donnell, seconded by Jean Landis Naumann, the Committee voted to adjourn at 9:53 pm. The vote was unanimous.