

Shared Police Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 3/7 10:00am – 12:30p

The subcommittee was also joined by members of the Police Task Force which included representatives from the Borough and Township Police Departments.

Chief Buchanan presented the Township's recommended organizational model for a consolidated police force. It included a 59 officer department with six civilian personnel and eight dispatchers, one lead dispatcher and one Supervisor / IT. Total employees would be 75.

Included in the Twp model, are rank corporals in patrol, which the Boro does not have however they fill that role by using an "Officer in Charge" for the scheduled shift. The corporal rank is intended to provide not just supervisory functions but also a career path for those officers interested in pursuing higher police management ranks. The Twp approach is more costly however it may prevent a liability in the future should the issue of supervisory quality become an element in a court case.

Chief Dudeck commented about how the Boro is satisfied with their approach using an Office in Charge and how it tends to be less costly since a patrolman is only paid at the higher rate for the duration of the assignment.

Chief Buchanan reminded the subcommittee about the cuts that have occurred in both of the police departments over the past several years, which resulted in ten total police officers being cut – five from the boro and five from the twp. In his opinion, the police forces are already operating in a bare-bones capacity and any further reductions will significantly affect the quality of police services delivered in Princeton.

The Twp model essentially restores some operational services that we previously cut –such as Community Services and Traffic. Also, the Twp model increases the dispatchers from five to nine including a Lead Dispatcher.

Chief Dudeck submitted a brief survey conducted by the Boro that lists the dispatch staffing levels by some surrounding departments including West Windsor, East Windsor, Ewing, Lawrence Twp, South Brunswick Twp, and Hillsborough Twp. All have between two and five dispatch consoles, however, most will staff with one or two dispatchers depending on the shift. South Brunswick Twp will staff up to three positions for a shift.

Also discussed were several areas of cost that would be required to consolidate the police forces. Chief Buchanan provide a summary of several areas (not complete) that should be considered as one-time costs such as facility modifications, contractual differences, dispatch center, weapons, computers, training, standardization for cars, decals, uniforms, and parking. Parking may be a significant issue due to the lack of available free spaces around the Twp build.

Next Meeting is 3/21 – and will discuss Technology forecasts for each agency assuming no consolidation occurs to establish baselines for technology costs/benefits under consolidated or shared models.