

Shared Police Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 4/25 10:00am – 12:30p

Attendees: Trotter, Miller, Lilienthal, Lahnston, Metro, Stefko (on phone)

The agenda for today's meeting was to finalize our Police Subcommittee options, recommendations, and approach.

In preparation for this meeting, Bill Metro met individually with both Chief's of Police on Friday, 4/22, to brief them on our recommended approach. Bill explained to them that we will be recommending a transitional approach. Initially, the departments would be merged together with the full contingent of 60 police officers, and then over a period of 3 to 5 yrs, it would be systematically reduced in steps down to 51 sworn personnel. Also, dispatch would be consolidated in the Twp facility, using enhanced Twp technology.

Chief Dudeck and Capt. Sutter were in support of this approach. The Chief said reducing down to 51 would be a challenge but he could see how it could be accomplished. He said they would do whatever the Commission recommended.

Chief Buchanan, accompanied Twp command staff, also had similar comments. Chief Buchanan commented that they would do whatever they were told to do and adjust operations accordingly. However, the Chief reminded Bill that the department has already been trimmed by 5 or 6 sworn officers over the past several years and going down to 51 will have a significant impact on the level and quality of police services provided to the community.

The subcommittee settled on making the following recommendations to the Commission on Wednesday:

1. Recommendation #1 - A transitional approach will be employed that will initially support the full contingent of 60 sworn officers on day one. This will be implemented using a model provided by Chief Buchanan. This approach is needed to ensure that there is an adequate level of police supervision provided during a time of significant operational change, and to ensure that no disruption or degradation of police services occur during the time it takes to merge the police operations.
 - a. The next step will be a reductions based on CGR models down to 55, then down to 51 over the course of 3 years. Most if not all of the staff reductions could occur in conjunction with the forecast of retirement eligible officers over this timeframe. The Twp facility will be used to house the consolidated police force, recognizing that some modifications may need to occur primarily in the areas of evidence/property storage, parking, and dispatch. Technology will need to be standardized across vehicles, portable radios, and mobile computers, using the Twp computer systems as the primary systems.
2. Recommendation #2 - In the event that consolidation referendum fails, a Consolidated Shared Dispatch service should be provided to improve 9-1-1 service efficiency. Estimated technology costs are approximately \$300-\$400 with essentially no change in dispatch and support personnel.
3. Not Recommended – At this point in time, we are NOT recommending the implementation of a Shared Police Service due to many questions that still remain with respect to maintaining “Appropriate Authority” and a single point of policy direction for the Chief.