



Long Beach Police Commission

Meeting agenda / minutes

September 8th 2022

4:00 pm CT

Meeting location: Town Center also Via zoom, link provided on the Town website

Commission Members Present

Chief Mark Swistek (10 minutes late due to a call for service)

John Kocher

Bob McFadden

John Wall

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **Meeting change / reminder:** Commissioner McFadden made the motion to change our monthly meetings to quarterly meetings unless otherwise needed. If a special meeting is necessary, we will schedule one. Otherwise, the monthly Police Commission meetings will be held once each quarter with the next meeting being held, September 8th 2022 at 4pm. The next meeting will be Thursday January 5th 2023. Meg Collins will be contacted to update the Town website.
- ❖ **New Patrol Unit:** We have secured a 2023 Ford F-150 Police Responder unit with Bloomington Ford through the State QPA agreement. At this time the production / ship time is unknown due to the continued "chip shortage". We are hopeful for this fall or early 2023. **Update:** The vehicle radar and trunk vault have been received. Still waiting on the lights/siren package. Vehicle arrival is still unknown. Last update was October-Feb 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **Homicide investigation:** Last week Thursday, September 1st we responded to an E-911 call reference a neighbor hearing their backyard neighbor yelling for someone to call the police. Upon arrival it was discovered two family members were stabbed several times and were in critical condition. While on scene the suspect, son of one of the victims was located and arrested with a knife still on his person. One of the two victims died on scene and the other is still in critical condition at an area trauma center. Thank you to the numerous law enforcement departments that assisted us. The LaPorte County Sheriff Department was asked to adopt the case due to the extent of the extensive crime scene and need for crime scene technicians. Everyone worked together exceptionally well.
- ❖ **Labor Day weekend:** Labor Day weekend was uneventful and extra patrols were deployed in the various communities that we serve. Overall, no major concerns for the summer. Our staff remain healthy and active and we appreciate their dedication and professionalism.
- ❖ **Part-time Police Clerk hired:** Back in May we hired James Imes as our part-time clerk for Saturdays. He is responsible for answering the phones, greeting residents at the Town Hall, issuing Golf cart passes etc. Jim previously worked for the town as a part-time dispatcher for several years.



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- ❖ **Firearms update:** Last week the department conducted our annual firearms qualification. Officers qualified with both their issued sidearms and patrol rifles. We also added suppressors to the patrol rifles. Thank you to Deputy Toby Babcock for running a successful range qualification last Wednesday. Still waiting on ammunition that was ordered last year.
- ❖ **CRISIS outreach program:** LaPorte County Law Enforcement was the recipient of a grant for a "Crisis Intervention Team. The team will focus on community intervention to substance use, instability, and suicidal support. The grant period is July 1st 2022 through December 31st 2024. Overall goal is to reduce the trauma that people experience during a mental health crisis and provide valuable resources for mental health services. Similar programs are being launched nationwide in response to the growing mental health concern. In January 2023 the training will be offered to officers of LaPorte County.
- ❖ **Staffing update:** Deputy Mitchel Sights continues his search for a warmer climate. Currently he is in a background investigation with the Brownsburg Indiana Police Department. He completed his in-person interview two weeks ago. Mitchel was recently married in July and he and his wife are searching for their forever home.
- ❖ **Diesel fuel in our vehicles:** The last week of June we discovered that our fuel supplier placed diesel fuel in our unleaded town fuel tank. This caused major issues and six out of our seven vehicles were affected to include an ATV unit and the street department Superintendent's truck. The repairs were completed over the next five weeks and the fuel company covered all of the expenses. Totaling approximately \$30,000.00 in repairs.
- ❖ **LIT tax increase:** Back in May the LaPorte county council approved a .50% increase to the Local income tax (LIT) and designated that this tax only be used for emergency first responder expenses. To include salary increases, vehicles, training, and other equipment. The Town was initially informed that we would receive approximately \$227,000.00 in additional income. The most recent projections from the DLGF have indicated that we could see an additional \$263,000.00 in 2023. The tax will be implemented this October 2022 and we will receive our first installment January 2023 according to the County Council. Several area departments have already announced pay increases of 6-10% for their first responders in 2023. For several years counties to our west were already collecting a higher LIT tax and have increased the salaries for their police and fire personnel. Which has affected LaPorte County because many qualified first responders have left area departments and took employment to the west for the increased salary.

Public Comments: None

Commission Comments: None

Adjournment: Concluded meeting at 4:26 pm

Next meeting is January 5th 2023 at 4:00 PM

Minutes prepared by: Chief Mark Swistek



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