



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

ANNUAL SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, March 15, 2010	5:30 pm	City Hall
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Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Philip Anspach- Hooker Avenue- addressed Chief of Police concerned about daytime foot patrols. He said that he sees very little done, they walk up and down Main Street. The police do not ticket for cars over the lines. He wanted to know about GPS in the patrol cars, believes the dispatcher should know about where the cars are.

POLICE CHIEF KNAPP GAVE A PRESENTATION WITH REGARD TO THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Councilmember Mallory asked what constitutes a foot patrol.

Chief Knapp responded officers walking to be visible and be seen on the streets. They are not out there to give tickets they are there to be seen. They want officers to be on foot for about 10 minutes per area and they pick different locations. If there is something going on they will have foot patrols in a "targeted area". If a call comes in then the officers on foot patrol would have to get out to answer the call.

Councilmember Mallory asked if a foot patrol is counted if the officers are only on the street for about 5-10 minutes if they are called out from a call.

Chief Knapp responded yes, they are considered for data purposes but it doesn't happen that often, this only happens a small percentage of the time.

John Myhans Wilbur Blvd-believes the police do the best job possible. He thinks that the Courts seem to be fallen down on the mark. The individual who was brought up on charges but they often release the individual.

Councilmember Coates asked Chief Knapp about some of the vacancies in the leadership positions.

Chief Knapp responded that it depends on how the hiring goes. The biggest priority right now is making sure patrol is fully ramped up. There was just 2 detectives go out for surgery which was not duty related. They just started hiring of 6 new officers, as those people come on board and get street ready that will help with those positions. Not having the academy in Orange County and not having the next academy until July is a problem.

Councilmember Coates wanted to know about the status on instillation of more cameras throughout the city.

Chief Knapp responded that the contracts are in place and we are identifying the final numbers on the money. Actually come up with a few smaller grants to assist with that, we have identified a consultant, it is a massive project and there is a lot of money involved and it is not something that he feels comfortable making the decision about. They are looking at adding camera sites out on the streets, change wireless network and changing it to a mesh network and looking at redoing the system at the front desk, adding monitors at dispatch and adding a remote monitoring area and use an officer who is on restricted duty back there.

Councilmember Coates during the presentation he saw that CP is assisting units within the police department, extra duties, is it taking away from them being out in the community and building relationships within the community.

Chief Knapp responded that it could and until we get everyone back up to full strength it is going to be a reality.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the status of the segways.

Captain Pape responded that he is currently working on bid specs.

Councilmember Johnson Corlies Manor police are working there and is trying to be proactive as far as crime is concerned. The one thing that she wanted to insist on is that they do foot patrols. She wants them out of their cars getting to know the neighbors and the people in Corlies. She wanted to know if they can issue dog violations. Also inquired about foot patrols at King Street Park would like to see them there definitely during the nice weather. Also added that the Police Department did a really nice job last summer and cleaned up a lot of the undesirables.

Captain Pape responded yes, they can issue dog violations.

Chief Knapp responded that he didn't put all of the foot patrols on the list during the presentation.

Councilmember Coates asked about foot patrols at Tubman Terrace; he stated that it is needed due to some of the activity that goes on. He said that when there is police presence it deters bad things from happening. He wanted to know if it is possible to have police presence during all of the summer league basketball games.

Chief Knapp responded that they would need to have a dedicated officer there, and that is something that is going to cost money. We would need someone on overtime or we would have to take someone off of the streets. He said that we be something that would need to be talked about with the Mayor and the City Administrator. They could be there as much as possible and having a dedicated officer there is going to cost money.

Councilmember Herman stated that they should be proud of detective division, the intel that the police department develops and the way that you solve crime is above and beyond. As far as the STATS go with the warmer weather coming by increasing bike patrols, will that be known as a foot patrol STAT.

Chief Knapp responded no when they are out on the bikes it is considered an assignment for them. Actually now we do park and rides where the bike racks are on the car. These 9 retirements that we had have had a big effect on us.

Councilmember Herman asked if they have thought of adding another dog.

Chief Knapp responded it is an expensive proposition. A dog could be good at some point but now is not the time with some of the other priorities.

Councilmember Solomon asked if there is somewhere else that the new officers can go to training academy to take the place of Orange County.

Chief Knapp responded there is one in July in Kingston which is our preferred one. Normally we deal with Westchester, Rockland, Orange is a new one this year. The Sheriff is actually looking at running one so we have been talking to him. We just found out about this over the last few days, the Captain has been on the phone trying to figure this out. The other problem is that we have to worry about how far we send someone because that person is on our time; it becomes a compensation issue on our end. Some of these academies charge \$6000.00 an individual which is not in the budget.

Chairman Klein stated that we in the City of Poughkeepsie are truly grateful for having all levels and all divisions and all parts a dedicated and professional staff at City Hall. We are very fortunate; we commend you for your work, your dedication, your professionalism and thank you for your time this evening.

Constantine Kozalias- 47 Noxon Street- asked about the Walkway, he wanted to know what jurisdiction that falls under.

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Chief Knapp responded that the park police are primarily responsible, emergency call will come to City of Poughkeepsie Police Station; for the most part we will be the first responders on the Walkway.

Constantine Kozalias- 47 Noxon Street asked about civilians doing reports rather than tying up a police person for 3-4 hours writing up the report. Why can't we have that here.

Chief Knapp responded that for the legal restrictions; you must know the law or have experience to draft the report.

Constantine Kozalias- 47 Noxon Street asked about the parking violations, why we can't have something where the parking attendants can look at inspections and registration.

City Administrator Long responded that we recently got a new system that scans the registration and inspection and is linked to the SCOFLOW.

Dated: June 2, 2010

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Annual Special Informational Meeting on March 15, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanne L. Flynn
City Chamberlain