



# VILLAGE OF BARKER POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINTUES

December 5, 2016  
6:00pm

Mayor Aaron Nellist  
Deputy Mayor Janice M. Rider  
Trustee Gregory P. Kerth  
Trustee Scott Matheis  
Trustee Kimberly Ruffini

This meeting was posted in 4 places around the Village, on the Village website and was published in the Union Sun and Journal.

In **Attendance:** The entire Board of Trustees (Trustee Matheis arrived at 6:04pm), Police Chief Ross Annable, Sergeant Doug Piskorowski, Bob Longstreet, Louise Clark, Pat Fuller, Herb Meyer, Dale Howard, John Davis, Martin Padilla, Randy Wayner, Kurt Lutz, Dick Newman, Mark Wilson, Mark Remington, Paige Remington, Judy Remington

The **meeting was opened at 6:00pm** with Mayor Nellist administering the Pledge of Allegiance.

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The following facts were handed out to the attendees:

Beginning January 1, 2012- Present

Due to the Town of Somerset not approving the municipal cooperation agreement that would provide Police protection to the Town of Somerset by the Village of Barker Police Department at a cost of \$50,000 (2012), the Town of Somerset chooses to create its own Police Department.

October 2016

The Village of Barker Board of Trustees put together a proposal to enter back into a municipal cooperation agreement with the Town of Somerset to provide police protection at a cost of \$50,000. No formal response was given to the proposal and the Town budget was passed in early November 2016.

The Village has had a Police Department since its incorporation in 1908.

The Village PD consists of 5 part time Police Officers

All Officers are trained and experienced, some being retired Officers from other departments

The Village PD patrols to provide visibility, as well as a faster response time

The State Police and the NC Sheriff's department does NOT assign a car to our area on a daily basis

The Village PD patrols approximately 40 hours per week on a day shift and occasional patrols at night

In the Summer –May through September a late evening/ early morning patrol is added about 2-3 times per week.

The Village PD also puts extra coverage on for special events, be it Halloween, Graduation or the Homecoming Parade, etc.

The Village PD averages about 500 miles per month of patrol, annually approximately 6,000-8,000 miles of patrol

The Village PD costs the tax payers \$21.62 per hour to patrol

The following account codes are included in the Police Budget, when looking at the yearly budget figures these are the things included:

**POLICE- FY 2016-2017**

A3120.1 Personal Service - Chief	18,200
A3120.12 Personal Service - Officers	12,050
A3120.13 DWI Patrol	2950
A3120.2 - Equipment - Vehicle & Body Armor	0
A3120.41 Insurance	3,000
A3120.42 Gasoline	2,500
A3120.43 Uniforms	250
A3120.44 Training	250
A3120.45 Supplies	2,600
A3120.46 Vehicle Maintenance	2,500
<u>A3120.47 Building Maintenance</u>	<u>3,500</u>

**TOTAL POLICE 47,800**

FY 2016-2017 equals 11% of the budget- Village's share equals \$44,850 + \$2,950 NC DWI Money

The Village budgeted \$47,800 to operate the Police Department in 2015-2016

FY 2015-2016 equals 11% of the budget- Village's share equals \$44,850 + \$2,950 NC DWI Money

The Village budgeted \$46,600 to operate the Police Department in 2014-2015

FY 2014-2015 equals 12% of the budget- Village's share equals \$43,350 + \$3,250 NC DWI Money

The Village budgeted \$46,550 to operate the Police Department in 2013-2014  
(\$3,200 added in DWI line item to budget in expenditures and Revenues)  
FY 2013-2014 equals 12% of the budget-Village's share equals \$43,300 + \$3,250 NC DWI Money

The Village budgeted \$43,000 to operate the Police Department in 2012-2013  
FY 2012-2013 equals 13% of the budget

The Village budgeted \$75,250 to operate the Police Department with a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Somerset in 2011-2012  
FY 2011-2012 equals 20% of the budget

The Village budgeted \$73,150 to operate the Police Department with a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Somerset in 2010-2011  
FY 2010-2011 equals 18% of the budget

The Village budgeted \$68,950 to operate the Police Department with a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Somerset in 2009-2010  
FY 2009-2010 equals 19% of the budget

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Mayor Nellist read this aloud: While I would like to keep this informal meeting as possible, there are some ground rules I would like to go over so as to ensure everyone who would like to has an opportunity to voice they're opinion. First place make sure you have signed in and included your address if you plan on speaking. Secondly, the goal of this forum is to collect public opinion on our Police force and what level of service Village residents desire for the future. The Board will begin budget discussions in the near future and this will help us match the money expended to the most appropriate services provided. Please keep all comments directly focused on this area of our budget and directed to the Mayor. If there are particular questions residents may have that cannot be answered here we will research the area and I will respond in person as soon as possible. I would like to keep the comment period for each individual at 5 minutes. If after everyone has had a chance to speak individual residents may have more to offer, I will grant an additional 5 minutes per speaker. Please only speak when it is your turn and remain polite and respectful.

Louise Clark of Coleman Road  
Expressed situations that she has had in the past while living in Lockport and stated that the Police are important because you never know when you will need them. Her opinion was in favor of the Village Police force.

Martin Padilla of Coleman Road  
Began by asking if this meeting was in regards to entering into a Municipal Agreement with the Town of Somerset for Police protection again. As stated in the facts handed out to the public the answer is NO. A proposed agreement was given to the Town of Somerset in October 2016 and no formal response was received. He inquired about why it was ignored and asked if anyone at the meeting could answer the question. Mayor Nellist stated that anyone can attend Town meetings and if concerns are had, then attendance at a Town meeting to voice their concerns is the proper route. This meeting is in regards to the Village PD.

Pat Fuller of High Street  
Stated that she doesn't mind the Police Department, but was inquiring about if the Town would be able to call us a district which in turn would allow them to charge the Village residents what they want. It was stated that is not the case right now, and then Ms. Fuller went on to say that if the Village dissolved then that would be the case. Ms. Fuller also stated that if that were to happen it wouldn't save the Village taxpayers any money or come out further ahead.

Martin Padilla of Coleman Road  
Stated that the Village is under the jurisdiction of Niagara County Sheriff's Department, NYS Police and the Town of Somerset already services the Village with their Police Department.

Herb Meyer of East Avenue  
Stated that the Village provides day coverage, which is important. Mr. Meyer feels this way because of Barker Central School being in session during the day and that the response time would be a half hour from the County, so with having our own Department it cuts it down to several minutes. Mr. Meyer also stated that it's imperative to keep the coverage that the Village PD provides. Mayor Nellist stated that the point of this meeting is to inform residents about the cost associated with the budget and how much service to provide. Mr. Meyer sated that taxes haven't been raised substantially and that he feels the Board should raise taxes to pay for the PD. In hind sight when the Village lowered its tax rate from \$8.00 per thousand to \$7.00 per thousand it put the Village in a tight spot. Mr. Meyer stated that the Village PD also has an AED on board and that is an essential piece of equipment that can be utilized. It's a matter of time and the Village PD is closest for respond, besides the Barker Fire Department.

Bob Longstreet of East Avenue  
Asked Chief Annable about how Niagara County Sherriff's Department is handing coverage for our area. Police Chief Annable responded by stating the County is putting out 6 or 7 cars for the whole County. Newfane is assigned a car to the area and so is Royalton/Hartland. Sherriff Voutour stated to the Town Supervisors several years ago that the call volume in our area doesn't warrant a car to be dedicated to our area. Mr. Longstreet stated that he doesn't want to lose a resource officer that looks in on the School and asked Chief Annable about how it worked with the NYS Trooper that was a resource Officer at the School for several years. Chief Annable stated that it was a grant that paid the Troopers salary in full for 3 years and the 4<sup>th</sup> year was suppose to be picked up by the School District, but the NYS Troopers never charged the school for the Officer and when the State was in fiscal crisis they pulled the Officer out. Mayor Nellist stated that the Village PD does do school checks and sweep the School on occasion, but our #1 responsibility lies with our taxpayers and residents. Mr. Longstreet stated that the appearance of an Officer is something we have to consider.

John Davis of Quaker Road

Stated that he agreed with Herb about the Village PD and that he had two suggestions to help with community relations and transparency. First suggestion, in the newsletter that is sent out, the hours of operation for the Village PD should be included so that the public knows when the Officers are accessible. Because some residents have the perception that the Village PD doesn't do anything. Second suggestion, was a breakdown of how many calls were answered in the Village and in the Town, how many miles/hours of patrol, what kind of calls and traffic citations that have been issued be included in the newsletter to be more transparent and show what the PD is doing, Mayor Nellist thanked Mr. Davis for his input and stated that publishing the hours would be difficult since they flex and could be counterintuitive to the work the PD is trying to accomplish. Chief Annable stated that due to the Village PD presence the Village has a low crime rate and fast response times.

Martin Padilla of Coleman Road

Stated that the Village Board of Trustees raised money in 2002 to by a Police Car, he even contributed a \$1,000 toward the effort. He is in favor of the Police Department and stated that we could save money without having a Chief. Mayor Nellist stated that you can't run a Police Department without a Police Chief. Mr. Padilla stated that a salary of \$18,200 was quite a nice salary and has a personal car to use at Village expense. Chief Annable stated that Civil Service requires a Police Chief to run and Police Department and that the salary of \$18,200 breaks down to \$17.00 per hour. The white 1998 Crown Victoria police car is a backup car to the black and white and helps to keep the mileage low on the black and white.

Dale Howard of Huntington Beach Drive

Stated that the Village and the Town need to start working together and that having two separate Police departments is ridiculous. He stated that you need to take the politics out of the equation and let the two Police Chiefs hash this out. He also stated that he feels the Police need to be here and the smart way to do things is by working together. Mayor Nellist stated that it is hard since the Town budget and the Village budget do not coincide with each other and that the focus of the meeting is to deal with issues that face the Village PD and come up with a plan to go forward. Mr. Howard stated that the Village has to look at what they expect to happen in the future. He stated this Village has great bones and just needs more business and shops. The businesses and shops will look to see if a Police force is present for security purposes.

Louise Clark of Coleman Road

Stated that we're all residents of the Town of Somerset. The Town is holding public forums on how to better develop the community, with another meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December. If concerns are had with the Police residents should voice their opinion at the public forum so that the Police issue can be incorporated into the revised Town plan. Ms. Clark also stated that school safety through a resource officer should be worked into the school budget. She stated that North Park school in Lockport has an armed guard at the door at all times.

Pat Fuller of High Street

Inquired about any idea of what the impact will be on the tax rate. Mayor Nellist stated that budget talks have not begun yet.

Herb Meyer of East Avenue

Commented on how the Municipal Agreement with the Town was discontinued in 2011.

Dale Howard of Huntington Drive

Stated that if everyone would work together money would be saved.

Mayor Nellist stated that it would be nice to have schedules that don't overlap, but getting that information is difficult. As schedules are fluid.

Martin Padilla of Coleman Road

Stated that he want to have the Village PD for the relationship, repertoire and security it provides

Bob Longstreet of East Avenue

Inquired about what the Village PD is costing per thousand of the taxable levy. Mayor Nellist stated that he would look up that information and get back to him.

The informational meeting ended at 6:43pm.

**Work Session Immediately Followed:**

In Attendance: All members of the Board of Trustees and Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner

The Board had a discussion about the comments brought forth at the Police Informational meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to gather more input from residents. It was suggested that a survey could be put together and handed out in January when water bills are being paid. This will be put together so it's ready to go in January.

The LAP Plan (Language Access Plan) that is need to become compliant for the RD USDA water bond was discussed and how to obtain interpretation services. The Clerk-Treasurer is looking for quotes from telephone interpretation providers that would be pay as you use. It was also suggested that she reach out to Civil Service to see if they have anyone on record that can perform the services.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:01pm by Trustee Kerth and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Rider. All voted in favor to carry the motion.

Next meeting is the Monthly Board Meeting, Monday, December 12, 2016 @ 7:00pm, at which time the public hearing on the proposed Local Law amending the weight limit on Main Street and East Avenue will be held.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda M. Detschner-Clerk-Treasurer