

## **MINUTES OF THE POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD**

7:00 p.m.

June 16, 2022

Chairman Dan Henderson brought the meeting to order with the following committee members present: Police Chief Marshall Craft, Debbie Hall, H. William Mulvaney, Tesha Miller, Kimberly McGill, and Jeff James.

Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 17, 2022, meeting. Mrs. McGill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 17, 2022, meeting. Mr. Mulvaney seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all those present voting in favor.

### **New Business:**

Chairman Henderson presented New Business Item #2: Seaford Police Department Perimeter Fence Grant. Chief Craft explained the proposed fencing would run along the perimeter of the grounds. This would include separate entrance and exit gates monitored through an intercom system by Police Department Staff. The draft document for the project included an estimate between \$90,000.00 – 107,000.00 for materials and labor. Chief Craft reported the proposal was submitted to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), and the Police Department did secure \$90,000.00 in grant funding. The proposal for acceptance of the grant funding was presented and approved by Mayor and Council at the last Council Meeting on June 14, 2022.

Ms. Miller asked Chief Craft for more details on the proposed area for the fencing. Chief Craft explained the fencing would run the perimeter of the Police Department grounds; however, the half-circle drive in the front of the building would remain open for public use. He also noted that perimeter security was a concern in the Police Departments vulnerability assessment, and the fence would be considered critical infrastructure.

Mr. Mulvaney asked if the materials for the proposed fencing are like the fence installed at the Seaford Utility Building. Chief Craft explained the proposed fencing is black vinyl coated, with chain link and slats.

Mrs. McGill asked how many gates there would be on the proposed fencing. Chief Craft said there would be both an entrance and an exit gate, which will be equipped with motion sensors and monitored by an intercom system.

Chief added that funding will not be released until February 2023 but would account for 84% of the project cost.

Chairman Henderson thanked Chief Craft for coordinating the grant details on such short notice.

Mrs. McGill asked what kind of maintenance the fencing would require. Chief Craft explained there would likely be an annual service contract for the gate mechanisms, with the cost absorbed in the Police Departments general operating expenses.

Chairman Henderson solicited any other questions from the committee; there were none.

Chairman Henderson presented New Business Item #1: Seaford School District Art Project for "Riding with the PACK" community engagement initiative.

The committee members reviewed the submissions and individually ranked their top three (3). There was a general discussion on whether to edit the original artwork; all Board Members agreed it would be ok to send the winning submission to a graphic design company for editing, only if it did not dramatically change the student's initial vision.

The committee discussed the appropriate awards for the top three students and the remaining students who submitted artwork. Those present agreed on trophies and gift cards for the top three and decided all participants should receive a thank you letter from the Board. They also discussed reaching out to the schools and guardians of the students with the top three submissions to request their attendance at the City Council Meeting on June 28th. This meeting will include a presentation of the top three submissions to Mayor & Council Members.

Ms. Miller asked the group if it would be ok to confirm the three winners and allow Chief Craft to handle the remaining details of the contest; without the need to call the Board back for any other final approvals. She did add it would be necessary to ensure the 1st place artist can collaborate with the graphic designer to ensure the vision of their original artwork remains intact; those present agreed.

#### **Old Business:**

Chairman Henderson explained that Old Business is considered open and continually discussed and asked if Chief Craft had any updates on Community Engagement Opportunities since the last meeting.

Chief Craft explained the Police Department received their electric motorcycles, which are now out on the roads. He noted these are a great way to encourage community engagement because the Officers can have more face-to-face contact with community members. He also touched on a meeting he attended today, hosted by Children & Family First. The community meetings are a way to engage the community and offer volunteer opportunities along with training and educational programs for adults and children. He expressed his desire to have the Police Department play a more active role in these meetings in the future.

Chief Craft moved on to traffic safety concerns. He reported speedbumps were installed on Nylon Boulevard and Magnolia Drive. He reminded the Board Members that this is just a pilot program; however, the Police Department has already received significant positive feedback.

Mr. Mulvaney noted seeing a lot of Amazon delivery trucks driving above the speed limit on Stein Highway, specifically around 10:00 a.m. on weekdays. Chief Craft reported that similar concerns had been brought to the Police Department's attention, and Amazon has been made aware of the safety issue. He also noted these speeding violations typically occur during periods when officers usually see an influx of calls for service.

Chief Craft also reported the Police Department performed CRASE training at several locations in the city, including Sussex Montessori School, St. Johns Church, and City Hall. CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training is designed specifically for businesses and civilians. He noted there are also plans to perform a live drill exercise at Seaford High School.

Chief Craft also updated the Board Members on the Pedestrian Safety Ordinance and Traffic Enforcement Concerns. He noted the new Electric Motorcycles will be outfitted with mobile printers to allow officers to use the motorcycles for active patrols.

Chief Craft then gave an update on the Delaware State university CNRR (Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research). This program is designed to encourage diversity within local police departments. Chief Craft noted this process has proven difficult due to a decrease in applicants for all law enforcement departments in the state. Part of this partnership includes the creation of a recruitment and retention policy. He noted the department has already completed a rough draft and it has been submitted to CALEA (The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc) for review.

Chairman Henderson asked Chief Craft to touch on the intern who was recently hired at the Police Department. Chief Craft explained the department partnered with Delaware State University and brought on their newest intern, Mardochee Saintfort. She is a graduate of Seaford High School and is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. Mardochee (Chee) is currently working with the department's policy manager, Valerie Horn, to help amend existing policies and assist in creating new ones. Chee was also tasked with developing a cadet program.

Chairman Henderson solicited any questions or comments from the Board. Ms. Miller commented that there will always be residents who have a negative response to the Police Department's decisions; however, there do not seem to be any issues that have sparked concern with a large number of community members. Additionally, regarding the concerns about the Amazon delivery drivers, she noted it could be as simple as allowing the Board to get involved in contacting the Amazon facility and working to resolve the issues.

#### **Reminder of Meetings:**

Next Police Chief's Advisory Board, Thursday, September 15th, 2022, at City Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

With no other business, or questions, Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mulvaney so moved; Mr. James seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

---

Ashley Heinicke, City Clerk