

Police Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday August 14th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Boster at 7:00 pm.

Alderspersons in attendance: Carter, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Matrisch, Boster, and Karrick

Absent: Calloway

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy and City Clerk Jon Myint and Police Chief Steve Snodgrass

Audience: None

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve Police Committee Meeting Minutes of 7/10/2025

Motion passed

2. Promotion of a second Sergeant

Background

Previously there were two sergeants one for day shift and one for night shift.

When Steve was promoted to chief (since September 2020), his previous Sergeant duties were not reassigned; he continues doing both jobs.

Discussion

The committee discussed the importance of having a Sergeant on each shift for proper supervision.

Steve described covering multiple roles: Chief, sergeant Duties, vehicle and weapons maintenance, crime reporting, training coordination, and ordinances.

Administrative procedures for posting the Sergeant position were discussed (10 day posting as per contract).

Discussion about shift assignments for new Sergeant, past difficulties with candidates unwilling to change shifts, and which shifts should be covered.

If promoted, the Sergeant would assist with duties currently only chiefs/supervisors can handle, (e.g., state training system access, crime reporting) this would partially alleviate some of the Chief's workload.

The current Sergeant is expected to retire soon-timing for promotion is considered important.

Budgetary concerns were noted; an extra Sergeant position would cost approximately \$2,080.00 dollars per year in just regular time.

This promotion was not figured into the budget.

Chief reported feeling overwhelmed and under-supported for years.

Budget overview

2025-2026 Police salaries was budgeted for \$567,000.00

This covers police, dispatch and part time help.

The actual projected spending: \$562,868.00 (dispatch \$186,721; police \$376,147).

The projection does not include overtime.

Past budget cuts were made without detailed input from the Chief, leading to current staffing and budget challenges.

3. Full time police officer

Hiring another full-time officer would reduce part time, overtime needs, stress and officer burnout.

Currently, 832 hours a year (16 hours per week) are not covered by full time staff.

An additional officer would increase shift coverage especially during the busy evening hours (Wednesday through Friday 3:00 to 7:00 PM) and improve officer safety due to limited backup availability from neighboring jurisdictions.

The committee discussed a recent incident requiring backup and acknowledged Virden's officers often work alone raising safety concerns.

4. Bike path

Discussion about the use of golf carts, side by sides, and electric bikes in town.

Customary practice is to allow residents limited access despite the posted restrictions, as long as their behavior is responsible (and no there is no damage or reckless driving).

State rules and definitions about such vehicles was deemed unclear, and the committee called for more specific state guidance.

An increase in accidents and trauma involving electric scooters and bikes noted anecdotal.

Additionally

Chief gave an update about the car and trailer on the west side of town.

Chief talked to the owner of the lot, and to the owner of the camper.

He recommended the owner close the camper up, so it appears that no one is living in it.

Chief advise them that if the car is still there on Saturday (August the 16th) it will be towed.

Karrick spoke about a problem with vegetation surrounded by Emmit, Waverly, Henderson and Prairie streets. Wanting to know if the area meets code violation since it is not grass.

The area may have been a garden but now the area is grossly overgrown.

There also may be a trailer in there which someone could be being lived in.

If there was an emergency there, emergency vehicles would not be able to access the area.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to enter into Executive session at 7:41

Motion passed

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of 7-10-25.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

Motion passed

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: