

Police Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday September 14, 2023

Meeting called to order by Alderman Mitchell at 7:00 pm

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Calloway, Cunningham, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors. Ibberson arrived at 7:03 pm and left at 9:14 pm. Boster arrived at 7:32 pm.

Also in attendance: Mayor Murphy, Chief Steven Snodgrass left at 9:14 pm, and Dispatch supervisor Dave Bounds

Visitors: Jay Fahs arrived 7:00pm and left 7:25pm, Josh Strode arrived 7:30pm and left 7:38pm

Comments from audience: Josh Strode: I want a FOIA request granted. It is illegal not to give it to me. My claim does not meet any exemptions. Chief Snodgrass informed that body cam footage falls specifically under the body cam act. Josh stated that there was a police complaint which made it able to be FOIA. Chief Snodgrass will look into it further. It is the only part of the FOIA that has not been received. Traffic stop body cam is kept for 90 days and with a complaint it should be held for longer. Chief Snodgrass had previously informed the citizens that if there is a complaint and they do not agree with the conclusion that it was not a valid complaint, they would need to contact the Attorney General's office.

Topics:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (08/10/2023)

Motion made by Mitchell second by Mottershaw to approve the Police Committee Meeting Minutes for 08/10/23. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. Discuss moving FOIA Officer position from the City Office Manager to a position within the Virden Police Department

90-95% of the FOIA requests that we get are for the Police department. More than one FOIA officer is allowed. Chief Snodgrass wouldn't mind doing their own FOIA request. If Police department denies the request, they need to supply the exemption. Currently the Police department gives FOIA officer the statute for exemption. The City of Virden website currently states that a form must be completed and to submit it to the Police department. It makes more sense for it to remain one central person. The Police department will submit their items complete with full redaction done. The website needs to be reviewed and updated.

3. Discuss radar speed sign

The ones from CMS do not collect data. It would be approximately \$3500.00. At the Police Committee meeting on 7/13/2023 it was approved to take to Council for purchase of electronic speed limit sign for \$3,540.00 with the stipulation that the Chief would contact CMS to see cost/free trailer radar. The chief chose not to put it on the agenda for council because after looking at the budget, he did not want to pull that much out of budget at this time of the year. The Police budget looks like it has \$8500 still in the budget for equipment. The chief has a list of equipment that is needed that he would need to use that money for. Chief wants to wait until closer to the end of the fiscal year to see how much is left in the budget.

4. Discuss Flock license plate reader

This is not big brother trying to watch you. This is a crime solver/crime deterrent. The device senses motion and will take a picture of the vehicle. It documents the license plate, color, make, type of the vehicle. Whether the vehicle has stickers or a roof rack specific thing like that. They are solar powered. It runs the plate through LEADS (statewide database) and NCIC (nationwide database). It is looking for stolen vehicles, people with warrants, suspended drivers, specific stuff. It can also alert if we feel a certain vehicle is moving drugs it will alert when that vehicle passes. The police department would lease the cameras. Two cameras for first year are \$9,800 and for the second year is \$6,000. It is a two-year contract. This would be a better tool for the police department and to keep the community safe. Chief will keep this in mind for his budget for next year.

5. Information on SAFE-T Act

The SAFE-T Act starts Monday. There is a short list of what are considered detainable offences. It doesn't mean that if it is not on the list that they cannot be booked into the county jail, but it does take away custodial arrest on specific misdemeanors where we normally place them into custody take to police department to write a ticket then release. The police would have to write the ticket right there. Only way to make an arrest is if there is a continuance of the crime after ticketing. If they are determined that they are a threat to themselves, a specific person, or the community, they can be placed in county jail which they will see a judge within 24 hours and then be released. The State's Attorney stated that they are not going to be trying ankle bracelets or GPS monitoring in Macoupin County because it would count towards time served. The chief will be updating the policy to reflect this. He is setting up mandatory meetings to cover the new processes. Currently they have been instructed that they need to call the Chief 24/7 before they take anyone to the county jail. The police department will still be proactive.

6. Discuss promoting sergeant

The chief looked at the Sheriff's department's policy manual for Sergeant duties. They did not have it spelled out what the actual duties are. The Chief went ahead and put a list of duties that the Sergeant would be responsible for. Chief did talk to the union steward about reducing the posting days for a position to 10 days. He stated he would take that back. The chief will follow up on that. The sergeant should be on a shift that he has subordinates to supervise. Current Sergeant is talking about retiring in January. It was agreed that the chief should post for those that would want to be considered for promotion to sergeant. That way when the position opens it has been posted for the required 30 days and a list and order of merit are established.

7. List of properties for eventual demolition

The list of properties that Lisa had ran for houses with no water service and the list that I sent for the grant. Two properties are on both lists. 331 West Holden and 604 West Jackson. Which properties has the city already pursued on. The Mayor will send the property list out for everyone to look at. It was discussed to have Jessica have a list that gets sent to the council once a month regarding the properties that have been billed from Public Works and sent to collections. Gary will take to Jessica regarding this. The trailer that needs cleaned up they asked for more time. The mayor granted a 30-day extension and the work stopped and nothing has been done. Before moving forward with a court order the chief will give final notice to the owner letting them know that the city plans on escalating unless it gets cleaned up. Ladage Auction plans on listing both properties at the same time.

8. Ford Explorer repairs

The unmarked Explorer has the exact same issue as the marked explorer that was agreed to get repaired. The cost is going to be about \$1400.00. This will be added to the council meeting to be approved.

9. Police department paging out for the ambulance

Jay Fahs operation manager at the ambulance. The department has the capability of paging out Virден Fire and ambulance. We ran into a roadblock when doing transfers for Sunrise Nursing Home. It is set where they can call my personal phone between 8am-9pm and then call Macoupin County dispatch from 9pm-8am. It equals about 20 calls a year for Macoupin county dispatch. A private company started paying Macoupin County to dispatch them at about \$8000/year. They have hundreds of calls to be dispatched. Macoupin County has indicated that they would want us to start paying too. To me that would be a waste of taxpayer money especially since we get about 20 calls per year. I was wondering if the City of Virден would be ok with having the nursing home call the Virден police department to have them dispatch out for us. I did talk to the 911 board, and they are ok with the Virден Police department to dispatch as long as it is approved by the City of Virден. Ibberson would recommend the City of Virден to take on the dispatch request of the ambulance seconded by Murphy. Approved with consensus to take to council for a vote.

Additional:

Macoupin County is building a 20x40 building for feral cats only. When finished the process is supposed to be that the City can call Macoupin County and they will come with traps, and they go to this building. They don't want them brought into the other building because they have brought diseases in the past into the main building. Once trapped they will pay for them to be spayed or neutered then release them back out.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to enter executive session at 8:41 pm

Executive Session

1. Personnel- Employment 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Mottershaw to exit executive session at 9:13 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Calloway to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Motion passed with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



Shelly Boster
City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 10/12/2023