

## **Town of Chester Board of Selectmen & Town of Blandford Select Board**

**Monday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd Chester MA**

Meeting was called to order at 6:50pm. Attended by Barbara Huntoon and John Baldasaro of Chester Board of Selectmen; Kathe Warden Chester Town Administrator ;Cara Letendre and Tom Ackley of Blandford Select Board; Joshua Garcia, Blandford Town Administrator; Joanne Martin Blandford Administrative Assistant; Chief Daniel Illnicky, Chester/Blandford Police Dept. and Eric Weiss of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Review and discuss Shared Policing Project

Eric Weiss from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission started the discussion of the on-going process of developing a mutual agreement between the two towns for sharing a police force. The grant is to support the purchase of dual band radios, digital vehicle repeater systems, software standardization, standardization of uniforms, remarking cruisers and technical assistance for legal issues, reviews, consulting of PVPC etc.

Chief Illnicky noted that the grants support the purchase of radios and repeaters which will include the re-programming of all the radios so we share communication of all the frequencies on each of those radios, including cell phones and pagers. Chester is using Northampton Control at this time and Blandford is using Berkshire Control. He stated that Blandford will be able to move over to Northampton Control without issue. Chief said the advantage of having one communication system so one contact point knows everything that is going on in both towns. Chief said that the benefits to both towns will be increased police patrol and response time as well as decreased expenses.

Eric gave a summary of the Intermunicipal Agreement stating that there are 7 points to cover in the agreement. The role of the Police Chief, the responsibilities of each of the Towns, Budget Process, how the Assessment is determined, how the reporting will be done, ownership of assets and any other items that need to be considered. Eric said that the towns can have an agreement with no term limit because it's an open agreement with a clear exit clause. Eric said this agreement should have an annual report, police annual report and partnership annual report, and costs should be shared equally. Eric recommends creating an organizational chart and setting standards for pay, health insurance costs.

There was a discussion about creating a decision making advisory committee which should include at least two members of each Select Board, which should meet quarterly with the Police Chief.

There was a discussion about the possibility of another town joining the partnership and the need to have a one-time fee for startup costs. Cara Letendre recommended that there is a plan

in case in interested town does not have the finances for the upfront cost. The Boards should consider a payment plan.

Chief Illnicky said that there should be established a rotational vehicle replacement policy going forward.

Eric said he appreciated all the progress that is being made by both Boards on moving this agreement forward. The next meeting will be June 17, 2019 at the Blandford Town Hall at 6:30pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted

Katherine Warden

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Barbara P. Huntoon Chair

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John Baldasaro –Vice

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Clerk – Vacancy

2 pages of meeting minutes May 20,2019 Select Board