



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2022

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Selectman Nelson and Selectman Pitt were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Police Chief Zach Byam, Temple-Greenville Police Chief McTague, and the Harrisville Board of Selectmen, Andrea Hodson, Kathleen Scott and Pegg Monahan.

Chief McTague was on hand to describe the process and outcomes of Temple and Greenville's decision to merge their police departments into a shared police operation, with a discussion amongst meeting participants that ensued.

His presentation was similar to the narrative he presented to the Harrisville Select Board, which prompted the Boards' agreement to explore the model together, and whether it might be adapted and adopted to a shared police operation for Harrisville and Marlborough.

Highlights included:

- After reviewing ways the budget would be allocated to fund a merged operation, the towns settled on apportioning revenues and expenses by town population (versus the number of calls or townland size);
- The State's Attorney General created the start-up agreement contract, which is renewed every three years. Thus far the only update has been the allocation based on the 10-year U.S. Census;
- The plan to merge the departments was approved by the towns at their respective Town Meetings and has been renewed every three years, the budget is approved every year;
- Leading up to the Town Meetings, both towns hosted a separate public hearing;
- By their agreement, a Joint Police Board (JPB) made up of two select board members from each town oversees the management of the police department with 3 or more votes required for decisions; other than personnel matters which required a unanimous vote. The JPB notices and meets once a month in alternating town venues;
- Both towns realized substantive appropriations savings over time and increased on-duty coverage;

- The merged configuration affords greater job or career opportunities for police officers in the way of shifts, assignments, and compensation. Personnel and personnel policy are determined by the JPB.
- An inventory is kept of equipment and vehicles that include what towns brought into the agreement at the start for purposes of reporting and in the case the towns separate.
- Any grants that either town may apply for are managed separately.

After this discussion, the Boards agreed to meet next at 9:30 am on Friday, November 4, to debrief and consider the next steps. A response from the towns' attorney is also forthcoming.

The Harrisville Board of Selectmen and the Police Chiefs left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn at 12:10 pm, vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator