

Corinth Law Enforcement Study Committee Meeting Minutes
May, 9, 2023
Town Hall

6:30 PM

Attending: Mike Tkac, Chris Diaz, Kenya Lazuli, Cathi Haley, Jon Sakon, Jeff Spiegel

1. Reviewed and approved May 2, 2023 meeting minutes
2. Reviewed 2 preliminary proposals we previously approved and provided justifications for each proposal
3. Jeff reported on his discussions about policing with town officials from Topsham, Bradford, Washington, Chelsea, Newbury, and Randolph. Policing is an issue for each of the towns with no apparent possibilities for collaborating with Corinth.
4. Discussed ideas and rationales for our third proposal.
5. Finalized all 3 recommendations and rationales. (See attached)
After editing, Jeff will send them to the select board and request that after their review, we would like to meet with the board to discuss our decisions and answer any questions they may have.
6. Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Recommendations and Rationales For Corinth Law Enforcement

Recommendation: No longer contract with OCS: Call State Police for Emergencies

Rationales:

1. 3 hours of unspecified coverage from OCS is not desired
2. OCS may not want to contract for only 3 hours
3. Currently OCS has 3 officers assigned to courts leaving 1 for the entire county to patrol
4. OCS has not responded to emergencies in Corinth
5. OCS has insufficient certified deputies
6. Some calls require a certified police officer to accompany other service providers
7. No accountability or oversight for services rendered

Recommendation: From the \$9,500 budgeted for OCS, increase service time and and compensation for Town Constable to \$30/hr; Reimburse constable for job related expenses up to \$250 annually; Compensate for travel time and specified hours; Work after hours should be directed to state police or compensate constable for overtime

Rationales:

1. Provides for more patrolling and visibility
2. Constable is vulnerable to more dangerous conditions
3. Has not been compensated for travel time
4. Has not been compensated for serving criminal and civil paper work and evictions
5. Responds to calls when OCS or state police don't show up
6. \$15/hr is not a livable wage for a constable who puts his life at risk
7. Creates accountability with specified hours
8. Constable enforces town ordinances and civil services
9. Increase mileage compensation to federal IRS standard rate

Recommendation: Advertise and hire a local certified police officer to serve as a second constable who can respond to criminal cases; Add to the annual budget, funds for prevention programs and education

Rationales:

1. A certified police officer can respond to criminal cases
2. Having no police officer puts the local constable legally at risk
3. A licensed police officer has qualified immunity
4. Prevention programs have the potential to reduce the need for law enforcement