Minutes of the Hopkinton Police Commission Meeting of 10/13/2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:47 pm. Present: Chief Palmer, Captain Carrier, Geoff Cook, Howie Mills, myself, and Bob Marvel. No parties acknowledged their presence on the provided conference line.

Old Business:

1. Review of the past month’s activity

Chief Palmer gave the monthly report: The department responded to a 911 call where the person was found to be intoxicated and armed. The situation was dealt with without incident, and some firearms were confiscated from that incident. Another similar 911 call came from a person with mental health issues, who came forward and forfeited some firearms voluntarily. There was a bomb scare at the Hopkinton Industrial complex which turned out to be a crank call.

Body cameras: All local PDs have indicated support of them except one. The dept. supported a meeting on the topic which covered the fact that there will be about $33k/year in available funds provided for the next five years, to support this effort. In that time, the department will have to find a way to support funding after that period is up. Currently there are three officers involved in the trial with cameras, and response has been positive. We are hoping to see a demonstration on this topic at our next meeting.

In other department business, we lost a second officer who was a long time employee who is seeking employment outside of law enforcement. The department ran a recruitment where they generated two qualified candidates from the applicant pool. One of those applicants was from another local dept. (ret’d)

New Business

E911: We received pricing from a local sign company. It was over $500 which invokes a two bid minimum requirement. The sizes of the numbers also has to be verified, relative to what is available. (3.7” vs 2.5”)

Employee Retention: The Town Manager Brian Rosso has been informed of our predicament with loss of employees, and our ability to remain competitive in attracting new help, and is making efforts to help that situation as he negotiates a new contract with the police contract.

Proposition on marijuana sales in town: The group discussed the pros and cons of having a dispensary in town. The group also discussed the accuracy of the recent Westerly Sun article and whether or not a formal response should be made. No motions were entertained on the matter.

The commission reviewed the minutes of 9/08/22. There was a motion to accept them as presented by Geoff Cook and seconded by Howard Mills, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 4:57 pm by Geoff, seconded by Howard, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted for review

Phil Scalise 11/9/22
Hopkinton Police Commission