

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
AGENDA  
July 15th, 2021  
4:30 P.M.**

- I. Agenda Changes
- II. Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021
- III. Fire Department Request
- IV. Police Vehicles
- V. Police Department Update
- VI. General Information
  - 1 New Delaware Subdivision
  - 2 Tax Bills
  - 3 Food Trucks by the River
- VII. Next Meeting Date: September 16th, 2021
- VIII. Adjournment

**Public Safety  
Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
July 15th 2021**

Mrs. Gulley called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Members present included Tina Gulley, Chairperson, Deborah Ball and John Ragsdale.

Also present: Mayor, James H. Hudson, III; John Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk and Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police.

**I. Agenda Changes**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**II. Adoption of Minutes**

1. June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

Mrs. Ball made a motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

**III. Fire Department Request**

Spencer Cheatham advised that Bart Bartos will not be Fire Chief after the end of this year. He has some changes at his full-time position at Hanover County that will require Monday through Friday scheduling. The Fire Department Board are reviewing options. One option is for the Fire Chief to be a full-time paid position as a town employee. Chief Cheatham stated that times have changed, and the Fire Department is reorganizing to operate more efficiently.

Mr. Edwards advised that the cost for this position with benefits would be approximately \$100,000 and that the fire department would be able to provide some assistance with funding for this position.

Mrs. Gulley stated that Chief Bartos has been talking about these changes for some time and that Mrs. Gulley agrees with the position being a town employee.

Mr. Edwards advised that it would be easier to higher someone with good qualifications for a full-time position than a part-time position. Mr. Edwards also stated that there is the option to have King William handle the issue.

Mr. Hudson asked the Town Manager to place the Fire Department Request be placed on the Town Council Work Session for discussion.

#### **IV. Police Vehicles**

Chief Sawyer advised that the police officers are thankful for the change in the take home policy regarding vehicles and appreciate the support from Town Council. Chief Sawyer also stated that the police department is in the position where we do not have a spare vehicle. New Kent County Sheriff's office has offered the town two used vehicles. The vehicles have approximately 100,000+ miles, but they would be free and provide the department with spare vehicles for when the road vehicles are being worked on.

Mrs. Ball asked what New Kent would get in return.

Chief Sawyer stated that they would like the use of our range.

The consensus of the Committee is to accept the vehicles as spare vehicles.

#### **V. Police Department Update**

##### **1. Introducing Officers**

Mrs. Gulley advised that due to COVID and there not being regular meetings in person, there are some of the current police officers that Town Council has not met. Mrs. Gulley asked Chief Sawyer to bring officers to the meeting so Town Council can see who the new officers are.

Chief Sawyer introduced Katie Bujarski to the Committee, and stated that Katie is originally from New York, but has Law Enforcement experience from Kings Mill in Williamsburg. Katie has a very successful prosecution rate in court and is a great asset to the Town. Chief Sawyer introduced Chris Womack from Chesapeake who is now living in town. Chief Sawyer also stated that there is a new police officer that was highered this week, and that he will come to the next meeting.

##### **2. Department update**

Chief Sawyer provided an update on the following activities: 1) Speeding vehicles coming of the Eltham bridge with excessive speeds of 60 to 65+ in a construction zone. 2) An increase in activity at the schools from people that do not live in West Point, and 3) There are some on-going traffic enforcement involving subjects that do not live in town.

#### **VI. General Information**

##### **1. New Delaware Subdivision**

Mr. Edwards stated that the Town Attorney filed a complaint with Circuit Court last week for the New Delaware Subdivision and Paul White has been served with the complaint. As a result, there appears to be some clean up activity going on at the

subdivision. Mr. Edwards advised that he will keep Town Council informed with any changes as they occur.

2. Tax Bills

Mr. Edwards advised that tax bills have gone out and with regard to real estate taxes, the homeowner is responsible for their taxes, even if a mortgage company pays the bill through escrow. Earlier this year when the Treasurer tried to collect on back taxes, many homeowners claimed that their mortgage company had paid their taxes. A homeowner needs to know what their taxes are and confirm with their mortgage company that taxes have been paid.

3. Food Trucks by the River

Mr. Edwards stated that Food Trucks by the River is this Friday. Vendors are Sandston Smokehouse, Little Piggy's Worst Nightmare, Sno-to-Go and Gauthier Vineyards.

**VII. Town Council Agenda**


Mr. Edwards advised that the Fire Department will be on the Town Council Work Session agenda for discussion.

**VIII. Next Meeting Date:** September 16th 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.

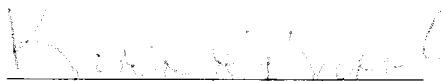
Mrs. Gulley advised that she has an appointment on the 16<sup>th</sup> and that she may or may not be at the meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mrs. Gulley adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

  
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Tina Gulley  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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Karen M. Barrow  
Town Clerk