

PLEASANT HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 21, 2005
MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 pm. Roll Call: Becky Phillis, Georgiana Weaver, Melinda Clark, Paul Didier, and Judy Barga all present. Brenda Stephens was absent. Guests included: Troy Daily News reporter, Chuck Soder; Robert Gurklies, Don Brining, Don Sleppy and Miami County Sheriff's Department representatives, Chief Deputy Joe Mahan and Miami County Sheriff Charles Cox. Others present: Mayor Gary Johnston and Acting Clerk Brenda Krofft.

Sheriff Cox and Chief Deputy Mahan were present to answer the council's questions regarding possible hiring of the Sheriff's Department to patrol and police the Village of Pleasant Hill.

Deputy Mahan spoke about the type of coverage the Village could expect. The Sheriff's Department has in the past been patrolling whenever our officers were not on duty. With the hiring of the Sheriff's Department to be our official policing department, we would receive officers designated for the Village for a total of 24 hours a week. This would be in addition to the hours they currently are patrolling the village. The Village would not always know what the scheduled hours would be. Sheriff Cox maintained that if there were times we wanted specific coverage we only need let the Department know.

Deputy Mahan stated that the Sheriff's Department can and does enforce local ordinances. The Sheriff's Department would like a copy of our local ordinances so that they may learn them and then be able to enforce them. If the Village notices specific ordinances being broken they may also call the Road Commander, Greg Johnston to inform him of violations. He will relay the information to the deputies for enforcement. Chief Deputy Mahan suggested calling 911 instead of calling the Road Commander as that creates a record of the call.

Melinda asked about what number we should call in a non-emergency situation. The Sheriff stated that all calls should go through the 911 system. That system gives the Sheriff's Department the address of the caller and records all data. This then creates a report that helps both the Department and the Village keep track of what happens.

Georgiana Weaver then asked about liability coverage. If the Sheriff's Department is patrolling our streets, the Village is then covered by the Sheriff's liability insurance.

Georgiana also asked if we could hire the Sheriff's Department without approval of the State. Sheriff Cox answered that several surrounding villages are contracted with the Sheriff's Department and did not need approval beforehand.

Melinda asked about the average level of experience on the force. Chief Deputy Mahan told her that the officers must complete basic training; 556 hours. They are then put with a Field Training Officer for 6 weeks. Sheriff Cox then stated that the officers continually train all year long to keep the officers up to date on any changes in the laws. The officers must qualify twice a year in firearms. Four times a year the officers have in house training.

Chief Deputy Mahan spoke of how the Department is only as effective as the people allow it to be. He spoke of needing the help of all citizens.

Don Sleppy asked about the Neighborhood Watch Program. Chief Deputy Mahan responded that they are only as effective as the people participating.

The Mayor asked about a movement at the State level to disband Village Police Departments. The Sheriff talked about the State trying for regionalization. That would save small villages from buying lots of equipment and maintaining its own police forces. The State feels that several small villages should band together to share coverage and expenses.

Becky asked about how many deputies would be on any scheduled day. Chief Deputy Mahan stated that there are a minimum of 4 patrolling the county at any given time. Becky had a concern that with only 4 in the county, would that be enough to cover our village and everything else they are required to do. The Sheriff replied that during the summer, there are extra patrols and that the department has been doing this for several years.

Georgiana then asked if a flyer would be a good way to let residents know what the council is planning to do. The Sheriff Department felt this would be an excellent way to get the information to the village.

Don Sleppy asked how the Village would finance this proposal. The Mayor talked about costs. One officer hired by the Village would cost approximately \$35,000. The proposal that the Sheriff's Department submitted was for \$33,184.32.

Melinda asked about typical response time. Chief Deputy Mahan spoke of how this depends on where the officers are when the call comes in and the nature of the call. He reiterated how it is very important for the citizens to call with accurate information.

The Sheriff told the council that if advance notice is given as to the time and date of council meetings that the Sheriff Department could have a representative at the meetings.

Mayor asked about whether the contract would run year to year and is there any potential negotiation in price. The Sheriff stated he would send the Mayor a sample contract for his information.

The Sheriff asked about the evidence located at the Police Department building. Chief Deputy Mahan stated that no one should go into the property room without a representative of the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will go through the items and let us know how to properly dispose of them. Some may still be attached to open court cases.

Council would like a copy of a tentative contract before next meeting in July. Sheriff Cox stated he wasn't sure that would be possible. Gary Nasal, who drafts the contracts, is out of the state. But the Sheriff felt confident that a contract could be to council before the August meeting. The Mayor stated he would like to see a draft of a contract for 24 hours a week coverage, year to year automatically renewable with 30 days advance notice to terminate.

Judy moved to adjourn seconded by Paul. Roll Call: Judy, Becky, Georgiana, Melinda and Paul all yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Mayor/ Gary Johnston

Acting Clerk/ Brenda Krofft