

Special Town Board Meeting, Town of New Paltz
March 23, 2009, 6:45 p.m.

Present: Kitty Brown, JaneAnn Williams, David Lewis, Jeff Logan, Toni Hokanson, Chief Joseph Snyder, Ira Margolis.

Public Comment:

Ira Margolis reminded the Board that Chief Zappone and commission gave one extra man with the promise that its officer would include foot patrols. Got the extra man and last year as well. Grant asking for two more officers, this will create more overtime that save overtime. Won't save a thing. It will increase the overtime and after 3 years the Town will have to maintain for another year. Salary will not be low, there will not be a savings – overtime will increase due to permanent status of officers.

Decent work place is necessary for those under strain of police work. After four years no one will remember what this was all about. Large enforcement department if bid feels no financial benefit to be gained. Lot of enforcement for a population of 13,000; from a financial perspective will cost lot of money for return not worth it.

Joe Snyder reacting to Board request for information comments – some will have price tag money attached. New study shows more people willing to pay thru taxes for more police. Medical response pheno???calls up over 16,000 last year no village town separation of those calls.

Councilman Lewis mentioned rollovers they come and go; 2 new hires didn't stay last year. Every couple of years you have turnover – judge new hire maybe State Police???? Retirement eligible: Lapp maximum stay 4 years, Manpel, Baker 20 years this year, McCuthcheon 20 years. Shaffrick 18 done at 20 years, Knoth 16 years. We will have 8 to 10 potential retirees up to 5 years from now. Councilman Lewis suggested not to grow – 6 year of free policing they should replace outgoing officers.

Joe Snyder stated grant was available in past; too bad we did not grab it. 6 years with free officer. He thinks overtime can be cut. If savings or cutting even or if we didn't save then go back to 23 officers.

Councilman Lewis stated we have no guarantee this is national grant.

Joe Snyder stated he can not apply if Board is not behind him. 167 shifts had to be filled. No night differential; \$60000 in overtime spent filling those tours. \$28000 for overtime in 2008 this includes court – can not avoid overtime. No overtime figures for 2007 available. If put 2 officers on- C line is busy – day tour is busy – back fell Sergeants on busy nights. DARE Officer in school – 2 guys on road. DARE on its' way out. New Grant for Safety equipment in schools. State stopping funding for DARE Program. Contract with school district? Three years school paid. Former Supervisor Don Wilen told school to forget about paying us money they owed to the town. Town Board made contract with school Board with overhead. Don Wilen said not pursuing. Daytime 2 guys working most of the time. Continue having officer in schools – Chief feels equipment \$2500 per officer (Vest will be reimbursed \$600). Urgent – 3 times weeks attend in Kingston. Seized asset money be used for 2 new officers if we move money around about way, yes and no. Chief went on to say injured officers – 2/3 comes back to budget from Workmen's Compensation. Benefits included in grant will show savings.

Councilwoman Brown looking for comparable numbers for similar Towns.

Chief will provide Saugerties information. First come first serve basis – started accepted 1 week ago thru 4/14. Last 4 year's turnover was 4 officers and Chief waved \$40,000 go into budget in preparation of the 4th year. Supervisor Hokanson responded nothing in 2010 and then over \$50,000 2 years after that.

Councilman Logan spoke of overtime and how it is out of control – questioned if this is only solution? May be more – is overtime being spent right places? Need more than \$50,000 savings. He does not see savings with this.

Supervisor Hokanson stated that the police do not physically have enough officers.

Councilwoman Brown shared that maybe the Town can not provide all the services. Not fair for our taxpayers to fund DARE when other Towns are in school district. School should pay for DARE cop. Bonding for new building – police station will be renovated to accommodate the department. She sympathizes with needing more people but the demand not coming from Town's people. Let somebody else pay for more bodies. Bring in legislators – county Sheriff fall under the county.

Councilwoman Williams likes the idea of applying for grant – worth the bet these people will be our force with one or two people leaving force. Questioned would it result in a savings? She is upset to see overtime figures – driving while tired and armed and adrenaline.

Councilwoman Brown no argument.

Supervisor Hokanson party put unsustainable tax burden on community. New law – retire after 25 years. Two retired chiefs get full medical benefits.

Councilwoman Williams stated we will strive for different packages in the future. Worth the bet we will have to keep costs down or at worst it's a break even.

Supervisor Hokanson 9000 shifts to cover by 9 shifts

Councilman Logan needs call per line, calls per day

Supervisor Hokanson proof of community outreach is emphasized.

Joe Snyder pursuing accreditation - no time requirement.

Supervisor Hokanson moved to authorize Chief to apply for Cops Grant for 2 officers, seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Nay votes from Brown and Logan Aye votes from Williams, Lewis and Hokanson

Councilwoman Brown would consider it for 1 officer.

At 8:27 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk