

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 15, 2019 6:30PM
COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Rogers.

Members present: Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Sandy Mansfield

Citizens: 6

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 17, 2019 and the special meeting of May 8, 2019 was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried with 4 ayes and 1 abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dave Neumann, legion member, stated that the legion sponsors a student to attend Boy's State each year, where they learn about state government. He suggested that the students really know nothing about local government and thought it would be a good idea to have the Township board host a day where the government class could come and interact with all of the Township officials to learn what their jobs are. He has already mentioned this to George Peterson and said that he seems interested in setting something up this next school year. Mike Rogers stated that he will meet and talk with George to try to set up a time and day for this venture.

Paul Kemppainen made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Alan Piel offered support. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The fire department would like to establish fees for unattended fires and/or fires during burn ban periods. The board was given a sample ordinance from the Township attorney for some ideas of what could be included in our own ordinance. Bill Neumann, fire commissioner, stated that he has been looking over some ideas for fees and types of fires that could have fines attached.

Bill Neumann offered a motion to table the issue until next meeting so fines etc. can be discussed and an ordinance draft can be drawn up. Support was offered by Alan Piel. Motion carried.

BILLS:

A motion to pay the bills as presented was offered by Alan Piel with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried. Bills from General Fund paid by checks #38765 thru 38779. Water Fund checks #3348 thru 23353 and Waste Water Fund check #4158.

REPORTS:

Supervisor The preliminary construction has begun for the tower near the transfer station.

Treasurer The county settlement for taxes has not been received to date, but amounts to about \$30,000. The balance in the General Fund has begun its downhill slide now that tax collection is over.

Bill Neumann There have been a number of calls now that the weather is nice regarding burials. We will need to be digging for interments soon.

Jim Pittsley Engine #1 is up and running. The new portable pump has been received. He is concerned that things get set in place for the fines for burning.

PD Chief April statistics: 23 Service calls which consisted of 17 non-criminal, 4 misdemeanors, and 2 felonies. This included 2 misdemeanor warrant arrests and 1 traffic arrest.

Miles driven: 1842

Radar hours: 37.5

The camera in the car was given by the County and cost us nothing.

June 8th at 9:00am there will be Narcan training at the Community Center. Learn how to properly use Narcan and possibly save a life. To attend the training, please call Chief

Paul Runcie at (906)358-2048 or email him at: policechief@watersmeet.us

Please register at least 10 days in advance to allow the trainer to order enough Narcan kits for each attendee.

Chief Runcie also explained the Police Reserve Program that is in place. We have three reserve officers that receive no compensation for their help to the department. They volunteer their time and pay for all their own equipment. The only thing that they are provided with are a badge and clothing patch as well as the use of a portable radio and updated training.

Paul Kemppainen stated that the Reserve officers are mainly more of a presence in the outlying areas of the township. (more information on the reserve program can be seen on the township website attached to the minutes of this meeting).

Paul Kemppainen offered a motion to adjourn with support from Bill Neumann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township



Watersmeet Township Police Department

Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officer Program Common Questions

What is a Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officer?

Non-Sworn member of the community that is non-compensated and donates their time riding with a Sworn member of a law enforcement agency. Their status of Non-Sworn designates that they have limited authority as a police officer (only while on-duty, being supervised by a Sworn Police Officer). Supervised can be via radio (if they become separated during a contact), or in person. Non-Sworn members of an agency have no police authority when they are not working.

Many agencies throughout the State of Michigan have Reserve/Auxiliary programs that augment their Sworn members. It allows community members to give back to their community while assisting their local police agencies that don't have a huge budget for a large number of Sworn members.

What type of training do Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers receive?

Most agencies either send their Non-Sworn through another agencies Reserve/Auxiliary Academy, or they train their members in-house. They are trained in Criminal Law and Procedure, Use of Force, De-escalation tactics and Firearms. There are minimum passing scores that are defined by each academy, however at this time MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) which governs Sworn members has no minimum requirements set since the Non-Sworn Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officer technically isn't a police officer per the statute definition.

Who can be a Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officer?

Anyone 21 years of age or older that has no criminal history (can obtain a concealed pistol license in the State of Michigan), is of good moral character and has the desire to donate their time for the program.

Where does the funding come for Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers?

Agencies generally don't provide any funding for Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers, with the exception of liability insurance, providing departmental patches/badges, the use of departmental portable radios and updated training. A deposit is normally collected for any equipment issued by the department, and the member is responsible for purchase of their firearm, duty belt with associated equipment, body armor, uniforms and boots.

What can a Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officer do?

Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers generally act as a second officer to the Sworn Officer they are riding with. They can get out on traffic stops, assist with criminal complaints and even effect an arrest should the need arise. Most agencies don't allow Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers to engage in any emergency vehicle operations (pursuits, running emergency lights/siren to a call, etc.), even though they may allow them to drive the police vehicle.

Watersmeet Township Police Department does have a program outline for an in-house Reserve/Auxiliary Police Academy. Members that haven't previously been through a program will be trained.

Currently the Watersmeet Township Police Department has three Reserve/Auxiliary Police Officers. One has completed a Reserve/Auxiliary Police Academy through Community College and has previous Reserve/Auxiliary Police experience, another has completed college courses for a degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement and is a military veteran, and the third is a military veteran.