

DRAFT MINUTES

Emergency Services Committee
Monday, March 26, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.

Present: Brenda Fields, Robert Childs, Doug Giles, Anissa Morriosn, Ryan Palmer

The focus of this meeting with Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer was to hear his responses to the committee's prepared questions.

Sheriff Palmer shared his background and general view on rural policing. Cultural shift of VSP means less interest for them to complete small town law enforcement work. Community focused, problem solving. Body cameras 25 sworn officers, Washington county courts house, DCF watches as VT has no secure facility. Supplement coverage in Lamoille Windam County... attacking violent crimes...youth engagement...change connection with kids to have more than negative.

Some would say there are two aspects to effective policing, community based presence or connection and emergency response. How does your organization see community knowledge and connections interplay with emergency response?

**Youth engagement and interactions, (Windsor county youth services, connection)
OCPC- court appoint hand off spots, sometimes involves tension.**

What hours/days does your department provide on-duty coverage? Would there be on-call coverage or would emergencies during off hours be dispatched to the VSP?

During non-duty times calls would be dispatched to VSP

We would appreciate knowing more about your team. Could you share your current staffing levels? (number holding level 2 or level 3 and other qualifications your officers may have) Are there certification areas not represented in your department? (animal response for example)

25 employees

Level 2 - part time,

Level 3 - full time academy, 17 weeks, crisis neg, siu, 60/40 split... 3 or 4 members

Sheriff Palmer values having the right people in the right places. Assigns court vs. other coverage based on certifications. Increasing capacity in July with Bethel contract. (80K), Sharon, Chelsea (50 K) Goal will be to assign an officer in the north and an officer always in the south between 7 am - 11 pm Two shifts, Goal to build department to have 2-3 in northern area..

We plan to have VLCT edit or create a contract. Is that an issue for you?

No, sample contract previously shared with selectboard.

What is Tunbridge's liability if we contract with you?

Shifts mainly to whomever you are contracted with. Majority shifts to department, town always on the hook, Windsor County insured through VLCT.

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How much control would the selectboard have over how you spend your time in Tunbridge? Can the selectboard suggest that you spend a certain amount of time patrolling on Rt 110, vs back roads, etc?

Retain operational decision making for tactical reasons, focus work on identified areas, community needs are being met, Balance, good point of contact key for agency.

Sheriff Palmer seeking to build an agency people want to work with. Building reputation by responses.

We plan to contract for a certain number of hours. Will you respond to, and how will you bill us, for emergencies beyond those hours, especially in cases where VSP will not respond?

15 hours a week, omni presence, not ibg on tickets: issued to modify behavior, will adjust to meet year's budget, adjust coverage to stay within budget.

Will you, or do you, sign on with VSP Dispatch to coordinate coverage?

Windsor County Sheriff's Department uses Valcor management system, dispatch currently VSP, Coordination with emergency services and 911 dispatch (Barre City) Recently secured a Homeland Security grant - radio network) 5 repeaters at tower sites,

Do you have staff to respond to animal complaints?

Yes can investigate animal cruelty

How do you control the number of officers/deputies at incidents to avoid unnecessary, duplicative coverage and costs?

Triage... how allocate resources, supervisor will handle.

Under what circumstances do you turn over a call or investigation to VSP?

Windsor County would turn over major crimes like aggravated assault to VSP for investigation.

When you send reports to the Town, will you document your hours by what was done, e.g. patrol on Rt 110 in Tunbridge village, and when you have been on duty in Town, and by officer/deputy?

Dates, times, incidents part of monthly report/bill.

Can you include within the patrol hours, time for attending some school and Town events to promote "Officer Friendly" and provide some guidance for such things as kids safe bicycle riding, proper use of child seats, kick drugs, etc."

Currently contracted with WRVSU to cover schools. WCS would separate coverage and billing.