

Village of Canton, New York

SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes: September 4, 2020

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Carol Pynchon, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Others Present:

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney
Cara Adams, Deputy Clerk

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
James Santimaw, Police Chief

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Mayor Dalton opened the Special Meeting up at 3:33pm via Zoom.

- 1. Discuss and take action on the Purchase of Police Body Cameras-** Mayor Dalton stated that he received a letter from a resident that approached him regarding Police Body Cameras . Trustee Larrabee and Trustee Sorensen spent time looking into body cameras and believe it is a fit for what the Village is trying to accomplish to be more transparent and accountable. He stated that the Police Officers are interested in the body cameras and it provides protection for them.

Mayor Dalton stated that he sent the Board the details on state contract pricing for the equipment.

Trustee Larrabee added that this would be a positive move and will strengthen the community relations with transparency and trust. She stated that she is in full support to move forward.

Trustee Sorensen stated that she reviewed some literature about the benefits of body cams which suggested that the evidence shows that the body cams increase a community's willingness to make reports, reduce complaints and reduce extreme incidents. She stated that there was some evidence for the body cameras giving people the chance to act appropriately. She stated that there doesn't seem to be any reduction in the work as a result of the cameras. She stated that there is a lot of literature on how the officers feel about the cameras and they are favorably as being a tool to improve citizens behavior. She stated that it creates trust and transparency within the community. She stated that knowing from Police Chief Santimaw that the Village Police Officer's would like the body cameras. She doesn't see any reason not to do this.

Chief Santimaw thanked the Police Committee and the Mayor for the thoughtful process involved and the Police Officers are asking for the body cameras.

Trustee Pynchon wanted it clarify that the Police Committee is the Public Safety

Committee.

Trustee Pynchon asked for the explanation on the redacted software and what it means?

Chief Santimaw stated that if the Officer has to deal with someone and there are young children there and the children do not need to be included in the video, the redacted software would edit the video. There will be the unedited version submitted to the DA's Office. He gave the example if the video would be given to the media.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the software was housed in the station and not connected to each of the body cameras.

Chief Santimaw stated that there is a way to look at one particular person at a scene. The software could make one person in clear view.

Trustee Pynchon stated that this would help with the efforts to move forward with the Police Reform Executive Order 203. She thanked everyone and that she is supportive.

Mayor Dalton added that the redacted software is part of the whole software package that is required for logging in and recording. It is secured and there is a trail if anything is edited.

Trustee Larrabee added that there will always be a raw copy.

Mayor Dalton stated that they will be working on the Policy and Procedure piece.

Chief Santimaw stated that the Sales Rep told him it could take six weeks to receive once the order is put in.

Chief Santimaw is going to look at the website for examples of the policies. He stated that Potsdam PD and SUNY PD use the same company and he can speak with them.

Trustee Sorensen wanted to speak about the cost and how it is going to be paid for in a time of fiscal stress. This will be paid for by funds that were allocated in the previous year and money that will be saved by going to the leasing program.

Clerk/Treasurer Noble stated that it may save money down the road, good insurance plan.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to proceed with the purchase of the body cameras and the software. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 3:52pm. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Best Regards,

Cara Adams
Deputy Clerk