

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**SELECT BOARDS OF NEW BRAINTREE & HARDWICK**

to discuss the possible sharing of Police Departments

**Monday, June 30, 2014**

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive

New Braintree, MA 01531

**GATHERING:** Randy Walker, Bob Hunt, C. William Howland, and the attached list of attendees along with Katie Tyler as secretary.

**DISCUSSION:** Bob opened the discussion by saying he had spoken to Harry Comerford about the possibility of regionalizing the Police Departments of our two Towns and then it was decided to go ahead and open the discussion officially.

Kenan Young asked the New Braintree Board what it needs and Sandra Krasnecky asked what the purpose of this meeting was in particular. Randy spoke and said what New Braintree needed hasn't really been decided yet as the fact that Bert had to go out on medical retirement was a surprise; perhaps we need a part-time officer.

Bob said we are looking at regionalization as an alternative; this was sort of sudden for us and we are open to an open discussion as to whether that would fit either of us. We are not certain we can afford a full-time chief and might decide we need less. Kenan stated he does not want to go down the path of regionalization—it is too complicated and problematic. Perhaps the idea of sharing the departments would work out much better. Kenan wanted to know what New Braintree's budget will be and what we expect.

Bob answered that we would like more coverage if we can and more commitment if we can afford it. Harry said perhaps the two towns can decide to share resources, personnel experience, etc., and work out a budget for it. Maybe we each might have to get opinions from our Town Counsels. He says our Towns are fairly compatible—we share the same court system and DCF. Our radio systems match, etc. Bob asked if Harry had any sort of plan or broad picture in mind that he wanted to bring forth; he answered that Hardwick has a \$440,000 budget with 24/7 coverage. They could easily give our town full-time coverage, especially if both our towns put in their budgets together. Perhaps we could contract with them for police service and then there would be no loss of identity for New Braintree. Bob said that was done a lot on the West Coast.

The Hardwick representatives were asked what they would expect: they would expect another full-time office if we continue to fund our department as we do currently and also the departments would be eligible for more grants.

Bob asked how the Chief would work. The response is that he would work both Towns but Hardwick would expect more out of him because they pay him more. He would spend some time in New Braintree

as well. Harry says the Chief and the Sergeant are the management team for Hardwick and they do very well. There are no problems; they manage the budget well; they stay up-to-date. We would get this management team to ease the transition.

Randy's question was how they would use our budget if it was absorbed. Kenan said they would add a full-time officer and another vehicle. The financial part of the plan hasn't been completely broken down but they are thinking maybe the Chief would get \$10,000 to \$12,000 and the rest would go to patrols. Hardwick leases vehicles; ours are tired and we would need newer ones.

Kevin gave some figures he had obtained from Dispatch. In the last year in Hardwick:

- 8,601 calls
- 174 arrests
- 628 citations
- 39 traffic crashes
- 189 FID LTCs

In New Braintree:

- 700 calls for service
- 1200 calls for service when adding in traffic costs.

Jim Ayotte stated that two patrols would be on. One would be assigned here and Wheelwright, back and forth all the time with plenty of visibility. A shift in each town at the same time would be an advantage for Hardwick.

Rich Kmiec said sharing should work. If we try it and at the end of the year it does not work for some reason, we can all go home "no foul, no hurt." Regionalization is just too far off to consider. Kenan said he would actually like to try the six-month plan without adding anything from New Braintree's budget to the mix (just using Hardwick's budget). If that works, maybe we could try something long-term. Hardwick's bigger gain would be adding a full-timer; but that would not be done in the first six months. If the plan works, we would pay for the full-timer from the New Braintree budget.

Bob spoke at this point and stated that the next stage would be a delegated group to work on an agreement. Rich asked what our intention was right at this point, and it was stated that maybe a transitional chief would work the best. Bill asked what towns in the western part of the state share departments and it appears that they are Williamsburg and Chesterfield. They could perhaps give us some input as to working out a written agreement.

Sandra stated that Hardwick is very supportive of its Police Department and trust in the officers has never been higher than it is right now.

Janet asked which Town would be the employer for the officers: for six months it would have to remain separate. Hardwick is unionized, but the union employees have no problem with adding non-union employees to work with them. Mark Borelli stated that the Hardwick Police are great to work with and they have been very helpful in any situation that our Fire Department has been involved in.

Bob Glidden asked Jim Ayotte how he would appoint officers. Jim said he would appoint the ones Hardwick trains and work with and he would look at our list and bring forward for appointment the ones that work well in New Braintree.

Bill Howland mentioned that he is worried about support in Hardwick for joining the two departments because Hardwick never gave New Braintree any support for the school issues. Sandy responded that Emergency Services are an entirely different issue, and Kenan stated that Hardwick had more area to argue with the school to get them to lower assessments than New Braintree has had. Jim mentioned at this point that our two towns already share the Building Inspector and the Emergency Management Director and that works very well. Janet spoke up and said she supports the six-month trial basis.

Bob Glidden, Don Roberts and Chief Ayotte suggested again that we try to get a copy of the InterMunicipal Agreement set up in Chesterfield/Williamsburg, and Katie said she would e-mail them to request it.

Susie asked the Board to make an appointment this evening as the Department really needs someone who can come in to take over—they are drained. Bob Glidden asked if we could Kevin as a temporary administrator and the Hardwick representatives suggested we appoint the management team.

Bob made a motion to appoint three members from New Braintree to the Police Department Study Committee: Bob Hunt from the Select Board, Les Miller from Finance, and Bob Glidden as former Police Chief and resident. Bill Howland seconded it and it unanimously passed.

Hardwick members nominated three representatives seconded it and it unanimously passed.

Bob Hunt made a motion to appoint Chief Ayotte and Sergeant Landine as Police Administrators to augment the New Braintree Police Department immediately. Bill Howland seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

A meeting of the Study Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014, in New Braintree. Dennis recommended notifying Dispatch. Susie offered her assistance for the Department. Kevin requested a letter covering the appointment as temporary administrators and said he would advise Dispatch.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The regular Select Board meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. with a motion by Bob Hunt, seconded by Bill Howland, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie J. Tyler, Administrative Assistant

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