

Minutes  
Special Called Meeting  
Aberdeen Town Board

March 10, 2011  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building  
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to listen to the budget presentation for the Police Department. Members present were Mayor Pro-tem Robbie Farrell and Commissioners Pat Ann McMurray, Alan Parker, Jim Thomas, and Walter Wright. Mayor Elizabeth B. Mofield was not in attendance for the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Police Chief Mike Connor, Town Manager Bill Zell, and Town Clerk Regina Rosy.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell called the Special Called Meeting to order.

Police Chief Connor showed some pictures to the Board of different events that the Aberdeen Police Department participated in over the past year.

Chief Connor stated the Police Department is currently fully staffed and officer morale is high. Chief Connor stated the career development program seems to be doing well and the POPAT incentive also provides good incentive for the officers to stay fit and promote within the department. Chief Connor stated the Police Department provides their own in-service training. The Police Department also works with Habitat for Humanity doing residential security classes.

Chief Connor stated notable occurrences in 2010/2011 include the following:

2 lieutenants LEEP graduates

2 accident reconstructionists

3 additional general instructors

1 additional firearms instructor

Domestics are increasing

Drug cases and weapons violations increasing

Personal injury accidents increasing (1 fatality)

Calls for service increasing

CJLEADS and LPPOLICE – 2 new programs Police Department uses

Chief Connor stated training for 2010 includes 3,042 hours of training for the Aberdeen Police Department.

Chief Connor stated current problems facing Law Enforcement in Aberdeen include the following:

- Salaries for command staff have fallen behind other agencies in county
- Need another investigator (calls have increased and demands for prosecution are getting more demanding and time consuming)
- Officers are recruited by other agencies
- Population growth in Aberdeen is exceeding the growth of the police dept.
- Geographic area of city limits is increasing and more difficult to patrol
- Newer and younger criminal element
- Majority of crimes in Aberdeen are being committed by non-residents
- Gang activity is all around Aberdeen
- Drugs are a constant problem (controlled substance diversion is increasing)
- Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the state for serious accidents with populations of less than 10,000
- Ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> in NC for alcohol related crashes
- Traffic accidents are up 5.4% from last year
- Highways are more and more congested and the traffic keeps coming
- Police officers answered 20,892 calls for service last year
- Police Department facility is too small for current needs

Chief Connor stated radios will be obsolete in 2013. There is a 2013 FCC 12.5 mandate and a 2017 FCC 6.25 mandate. Chief Connor stated law enforcement is really going to get the raw end of this deal.

Chief Connor stated in-house computers are older and too small for upgrades on software programs and it would cost \$15,000 for the server upgrade. Chief Connor stated maybe for the next fiscal year he will need software/program updates for the vehicles which would cost about \$38,000.

Other needs include a shelter for a radio repeater and a digital imaging system. Chief Connor talked about the communication needs for FCC Compliance. Chief Connor stated in order to get 30 portable radios, 20 mobile radios, and 20 mobile repeaters, the total cost to the Town of Aberdeen would be \$353,150. Chief Connor stated this will get the Town in compliance with the new standard to become effective in 2017.

Chief Connor stated capital needs for 2011-2012 include the following:

### Police Administration

Upgrading in-house computer server	\$15,200
Shelter for radio antenna/repeater site Hwy. 5	\$7,000
Fire Proof Cabinet	\$2,500
Funding Direction VIPER radios	???

### Police Patrol

2 police vehicles	\$64,000
Funding of existing traffic grant	\$27,789
Funding additional traffic safety officers	\$30,552

### Police Investigation

2 police vehicles	\$64,000
Digital imaging system	\$2,500

### Building

Land Acquisition	???
Replace Carpeting	\$3,500

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked how many officers are currently employed with the Aberdeen Police Department. Chief Connor stated there are 28 full-time officers and 3 part-time officers. Chief Connor stated by using the standard formula to calculate how many officers are needed, Aberdeen needs 44 law enforcement officers, and currently only have 28 full-time law enforcement positions budgeted.

Chief Connor stated his goals for 2010/2011 are to update the standard operating procedures, market the police department and seek additional ways of being involved in the community, update web page, train officers in gang awareness, narcotics recognition and drug diversion.

Commissioner Wright asked what Chief Connor thought about a satellite police department out on either Hwy. 5 or Hwy. 211. Chief Connor stated he definitely thought that would be a good thing to consider.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

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Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in  
Draft form on March 11, 2011

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Robert A. Farrell, Mayor Pro-tem

Minutes were approved  
on March 14, 2011