Law Enforcement Study Committee Minutes

Johnson / Hyde Park / Wolcott

Date: Nov 11, 2020 @ 6:00 pm

Attending: Jim Olsen, Duncan Hastings, Diana Osborn, Chris Jones, Nat Kinney

Members introduced themselves to each other.

Nat stated the committee’s mission, as composed by the Selectboards of Hyde Park, Wolcott and Johnson: “To study options for maintaining quality law enforcement coverage in a financially sustainable way.”

Nat encouraged the committee to reach out to stakeholders in the community (including Selectboards and the Sheriff himself) to get input on the law enforcement needs of the three towns.

Chris asked the committee could get data on what kinds of things the Sheriff’s department is involved with. Nat said the Selectboards get monthly reports from the Sheriff as well as an annual power point presentation. And he’d be happy to forward that to the committee. The committee should also feel free to ask the sheriff for information directly.

There was some general, informal discussion about different policing options and ways the committee could go about its work.

Duncan asked about the potential of getting some staff time for its work. Nat will look into it. Duncan said he will ask LCPC if there were any grant funds available.

The committee agreed by consent to appoint Duncan as an interim committee chair.

Nat said he’d check to see if perhaps the towns would contribute a little money for a paid minute taker.

The committee decided to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6pm, via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.