

Wilton – Jay Police Collaboration Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 21, 2025 – 6 pm – Jay Town Office

Present: Terry Bergeron, Lee Ann Dalessandro, Lisa Bryant, Jennifer Lynch, Joseph Sage, David Leavitt, Keith Swett, Ethan Kyes, Maria Greeley, Shiloh Lafreniere.

Absent: Amanda Lee, Mathew Bickford

Guests: Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Nathan Hiltz, Doug Hiltz

Minutes from previous meeting reviewed & approved unanimously.

Committee Discussion on additional dissemination of information:

- Both towns agreed it was going to provide agendas and minutes and original documents developed by the town/committee on their town websites as well as the committee members contact information for residents. Agendas only will be shared through other avenues, such as FB, bulletin board, etc. with a note added to see the website for more information.

The focus this week was department merger, one of the four options identified by the committee.

- Committee reviewed an outline the State of Pennsylvania has already developed. Their focus was on regional departments to strengthen existing police services in areas of administration, supervision, training, investigation, patrol and specialty services.
- Additional documents provided by Mat Bickford included information on municipal owned, public police authority, county based cooperative, and interlocal public safety districts. Mat was unavailable to review his findings but the Committee reviewed the interlocal public safety district documents and asked the town managers to reach out to MMA legal to try to determine if this type of structure would be allowed in Maine and whether it would fall under the same rules as a municipal police department.
- A review on what the departments could be doing now to assist each other such as Sharing field training officer, community events, scheduling and bridging gaps. The Committee asked the town managers to reach out to MMA insurance to determine whether collaborative efforts such as having a FTO in one town train someone from the other town would cause any insurance concerns.

Committee reviewed the pros or cons of what a merger might include as well as each department as they are established presently:

- Attractive Recruitment
- Larger Patrol Area
- More Positions, better opportunities for advancement
- Possible Position Growth; K-9, DRE, Blood Tec, Forensic Child Interviewer
- Combined resources, facilities, and budget (MJCA Cost)
- Less competition among departments recruiting from each other.
- Shared positions that one department might not have otherwise been able to fund
- 118 yrs combined experience
- Greater management structure, scheduling
- Building positive and collaborative culture for the two neighboring communities
- More excess to supervisors
- Open position less burdensome
- Department Liaison with local control.
- Citizens perception of quality and timely service
- Citizens perception of town identity
- No mill rate reduction

Other business:

- Shiloh updated the committee that she submitted a request to the Sheriff for the estimated cost of coverage would be for town of Jay. A request was also suggested if a joint estimate request could be submitted to the sheriff for a possible savings. Shiloh will ask for that estimate as well.
- The committee agreed to skip the August 4th meeting to allow more time to review documents and additional time allowed to receive information from other sources. Next scheduled meeting will be held on August 18th at the Wilton town office.

Public Comment/Questions

Motion made to adjourn meeting @ 7:52pm - Unanimous