

Wilton – Jay Police Collaboration Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025 – 6 pm – Wilton Town Office

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

Guests: Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Nathan Hiltz

Minutes from July 21, 2025 reviewed and approved unanimously.

Committee accepted resignation from Amanda Lee. The committee sent well wishes and appreciation for her support. Wilton select board to fill the opening on the committee.

Mathew Bickford agreed to be committee secretary. Motion agreed unanimously.

Discussion on the various public police models. Mat reviewed his findings on the three public policing models. He was unable to identify any other departments in Maine presently doing any type of these models. Discussions identified a separate entity/board outside of the existing individual select board is how these entities are structured. Such as a board of overseer with equal participation. A legal structure would need to be established and approved by each town.

Steps that would be required:

- Separate legal agreement developed
- Review with District Attorney on authority how to authorize department personnel. Chief Sage to follow up.

MMA suggestions and advisement were reviewed. Nothing indicated in Maine law that prohibits developing these types of entities. Suggested committee review the MMA cooperation manual. The town managers will seek this information for the committee. Recommendations for the towns to engage in a service/mutual aid agreement regarding cross training. Town managers will pursue a MOU as well as get more information on associate membership.

MMA guidance for each town to seek information from their individual legal council.

The committee reviewed the cost associated with town contracting with the Sheriff department for policing services.

- Town of Jay \$1,280,145 plus cost of maintaining local facilities
- Town of Wilton \$1,176,096 plus cost of maintaining local facility
- Both towns contracting at the same time \$2,238,534

Initial review of the three proposals resulted in several questions:

- What is the number of employees per proposal?
- What does 24/7 oversight coverage entail?
- Is part of that 24/7 time 'on-call'?

The committee will gather additional questions for review of the proposals to be clarified with the sheriff's office.

Ethan and Lee Ann will reach out to other states to see if there are any existing quasi regional agreements that would possibly provide additional clarification on how these are structured.

The next meeting will be September 15th at the Jay town office at 6pm. The September 1st meeting was cancelled due to the Labor Day holiday.

Motioned made to adjourn meeting at 7:24pm. - Unanimous.