

**BAINBRIDGE TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING WITH BG SCHOOL DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2018**

Present: Dolores Nabinger	Supervisor
Jennifer Sienko	Councilwoman
Kelly Hromada-Johnson	Councilwoman
Deborah Hromada	Councilwoman
Gary Richman	Highway Superintendent
Recording Secretary: Aric McKown	Town Clerk

Supervisor Nabinger called Special Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Guest(s): B-G School Superintendent Tim Ryan, Mayor Phil Wade, Bainbridge Police Chief Casey Caratelli, B-G School Board Member Shelly Bartow, Kevin Patten, Deputy Mayor Jay Campbell, B-G School Board Member Keith Hanvey, Janice Rideout/ BG School District Office.

B-G School Superintendent Tim Ryan started the meeting by stating the BG School District is looking to hire a full time school resource officer that would be armed with a weapon, and available during all school functions. Ryan stated that the school district can not directly employ an armed officer, on their staff, and therefore have to go to the village or town. He mentioned a business or LLC out of Binghamton that helped the Chenango Bridge School district get started with a resource officer, but felt that the 'best route' is to go through the village or town. Ryan said that the officer would be an employee of the town and village, and the school would pay the town and village for those services of the resource officer. He brought up the civil service component, saying that if the village and town agree to 20 hours each, making a full time employee that the school could get around the civil service piece. Ryan said he spent time over the summer, checking in with county first about getting help, and was informed that the county doesn't currently have the staffing to help. He mentioned that he had previously attended a village board meeting to share his thoughts, and came to the conclusion, that the best way to handle this, would be 'jointly' through the town and village. Ryan stated that the school board has budgeted \$60,000.00 to cover these costs for the 1st year, and that the mayor put together a budget including 42 weeks of employment, excluding summer. He reminded everyone of the threat that the school received back in February, and how it's been the motivation in getting a school resource officer in place.

Mayor Wade confirmed that the school would have to hire a school resource officer and his understanding was a 40 hour per week arrangement. He expressed an interest in doing this jointly with the town and go to a civil service list for hiring. Wade informed everyone that through recent communication with Bainbridge Police Chief Caratelli, that Caratelli had someone in mind for this position. Caratelli's choice for this position has been employed by the village for the last 35 years, and has aged out of the civil service process. Mayor Wade stated that by splitting the hours between the village and town, that we are able to get around the civil service component. He added that because Bainbridge doesn't have a full time police force, that the village could not do this alone, and would need the help of the town.

Supervisor Nabinger stated that she had been in contact with legal council through the Association of Towns, and was informed that the town could give jurisdiction to the village police to make arrests. She mentioned the town's Local Law #1 that was passed in 2015, allowing the town to have a constable. Nabinger said the town board has a lot of questions regarding the matter and wondered the issue with going through the civil service process, instead of hiring someone who already has 35 years on the job.

Superintendent Ryan answered this by stating, the relationship that an officer has with the students and staff is important. His concern with the civil service process, is that you're picking from the top 3 choices, and hope that one of the three is the fit that you want.

Councilwoman Johnson expressed the problem with following the protocol of the civil service, because of the issues with retirement, insurance, payroll or policies to adopt in order to facilitate this process. She asked about the complications that could arise from hiring someone already employed by the village.

Chief Caratelli explained that the civil service dictates how things have to be done. He said that school starts on Thursday, and by hiring through the civil service, it leaves little time to get things done, specifically the training. Caratelli says he has concern hiring someone fresh out of training with little experience. This position should be filled by someone who's known in the community and will want to stick around for awhile. Caratelli talked about the person he had in mind, and how this person is well known in the community, is seen at a lot school sporting events, and is a good fit for this position. He stated the cut off for the civil service is 30 years

of age. Caratelli commented that if his choice for hire was not hired, that he'd still want to hire someone who already has experience.

Mayor Wade stated this is a contingent position for 1 year, and might be hard to hire somebody with this type of contingency.

Janice Rideout stated that if the town were to hire the resource officer as a constable, that the school would not participate in the police and fire retirement.

School Board Member Shelly Bartow emphasized the importance of having someone of the 'right fit', so that it justifies this expense during budget time. She added that safety is our first concern, and helping our youth to feel comfortable with law enforcement. Bartow said that she hoped that the role of the resource officer would be somebody that the students would feel comfortable with and be able to talk to about anything that didn't look and seem right. She stated the school board would like to have more information from Chief Caratelli about this person that he's chosen, and the possibility of having this person attend a school board meeting.

Kevin Patten asked if this term of employment could be extended past 1 year. He also asked about other options or alternatives that would cover these 1 time costs. Patten inquired about how 1 resource officer will do everything in 40 hours per week and is there really a need to have an armed officer?

Superintendent Ryan mentioned that he has discussed this with the school board for months and that everyone is in agreement to try this for 1 year. He brought up a safety forum held at the school and attended by over 250 people. The majority expressed the need for this position and the board agreed to try it for a year. Ryan informed everyone that the school will be installing security cameras, putting alarms on the doors and thickening the glass windows.

Councilwoman Sienko asked about what would happen if this didn't work out after 1 year, and the possibility of it continuing on.

Superintendent Ryan answered with, if it doesn't work for 1 year, that the school would need to figure something else out. He said that he's checked into other school districts like Unadilla Valley and Windsor that already have resource officers in place. He provided the board a job description of a resource officer and sample contract between the town and village.

Councilwoman Johnson stated that the board had only first heard about this 2 ½ weeks ago, and would need some time to talk this over. She mentioned her interest in the logistics of it all and how this might be something in the future, that the state mandates and becomes part of their budget. Johnson said that it'll be 'key' to keep the resource officer in check, and a benefit to the cost of providing that 20 hours a week.

Superintendent Ryan said that our school district is further ahead than most districts, by having aggressive trainings and strive to be ahead of things. He said he is hoping for grant money to help with funding.

Mayor Wade commented on the importance of lock down drills and that there is not a sole solution. He said it's something that we need to move carefully on.

Supervisor Nabinger mentioned that she's not doubting the school board's decision to do this, but feels that the town board would only slow things down, if it's involved.

Councilwoman Sienko asked about who handles the resource officer, if things are not being done as they should. Superintendent Ryan stated in that situation, things would be handled between the school district and the resource officer.

Supervisor Nabinger asked about the salary and benefits that the resource officer would receive. Mayor Wade stated the benefits would be social security & police retirement, along with a police car and cell phone.

Councilwoman Hromada brought up the unknown insurance costs, and the necessity of liability insurance for any 'possibilities'.

Mayor Wade asked about the costs of training, travel and hotel costs, and if this person is considered to be an actual resource officer after everything is done. Chief Caratelli said he would have to look into this further to be certain. Caratelli also mentioned that if we decided to go with his choice for resource officer, that this person has asked to be on record as a 40 hour/week employee for his retirement.

Supervisor Nabinger mentioned that she had heard today, that the Town of Bainbridge could not hire a police officer, and that the local law regarding the

constable could be amended to include police officer duties. Councilwoman Hromada believed that law to be rescinded.

Mayor Wade asked about any possible arrangements to get this worked out, like the possibility of contracting with the Afton Police Department with one of their officers and entering into municipal agreement with Bainbridge, to solve the retirement problem.

Supervisor Nabinger suggested to have the village and school go elsewhere, so that the town is not slowing things down. She said that if they don't find a solution, to then come back to the town and move forward.

Councilwoman Johnson talked about the possible benefits of having a new person, because they can be molded into the person that you want on the job.

Councilwoman Hromada said that BOCES should be more involved, and asked about the state legislature on this.

Deputy Mayor Campbell spoke in favor of going through the civil service process and having a full time employee.

Motion to Adjourn @ 5:05PM

Respectively Submitted,

Aric McKown
Town Clerk

