

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors work session meeting for February 24, 2014, was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Monica Love in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Supervisors present were Monica Love, Matthew Menges, Charles Richards, Stephen Parthree, and Stephen Stefanowicz. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager and Trena Hall, Recording Secretary. Chief Mark Bentzel was in attendance to give a presentation. This meeting has been recorded for minute purposes only.

The purpose of this work session was to explain the operations of the newly hired Student Resource Officer (SRO) at the Dover Area School District.

In October of 2013, NYCRPD applied for a grant through the Department of Education to hire a School Resource Officer. The paperwork was due by November 22, 2013 and the grant would be awarded by the second week of December 2013. This grant would provide \$60,000 to the police department in the first 6 months and then an additional \$30,000 for the following 6 months. The grant was awarded the first week of January 2014.

At this point, the Dover Area School Board needed to agree to the SRO two year program. On the financial end of the SRO, 4 units needed to be purchased from the NYCRPD. Three units count as 30 hours a week but 4 units are needed. The School Board has agreed to purchase 3 of the units and a supporter is still needed for the last unit. The Borough showed interest in providing financial support and have committed to purchasing the full 1 unit for 2014, if the Township is not interested. One unit will cost \$38,383.947 and is pro-rated for 11 months. The remainder amount due for 2014 will be \$35,185.282. Half of the unit would be \$17,592.641. Dover Township currently purchases 61.5 units a year or 615 hours per week. The units per year would increase to 62 units or 620 hours per week for the Township. The new cost to the NYCRPD would be \$2,378,205.391 per year. A decision on this half unit is needed today. If the Township is not interested in committing for 2014, maybe they can commit for 2015.

Currently when a 911 call is made from any Dover Area School, a charge is placed to the servicing municipality. Now that the school will be funding this SRO, calls that were billed to the municipality will be tracked and billed to the school. This SRO will be the primary responder to all calls from any Dover Area School District building. If an additional officer is needed, that time will be billed to the school district.

The Dover Area School District has committed to fund the SRO for two years. If after two years the school would back out, the Township is not committed to continue funding this officer. The NYCRPD is comfortable with this scenario because they can absorb the cost if needed. They currently have an officer who will be required to retire within the next 2 years. With this, that SRO could then fill the retiring officer's position.

If the Township would commit to helping fund this SRO, the Township budget would increase by one half of a unit. The percentage of the unit purchased will change from 31.22% to 31.31% of the budget and will change the MMO based on the percentage of service that has been purchased.

Spring Grove School District currently has a SRO. In the first year or so they did have an increase in calls to 911. About a year after the calls began to decrease. Mr. Bentzel noted that the students become accustomed to having an officer on site. He believes that having the SRO present is the reason there is a tremendous interest of students wanting to be involved in law enforcement.

The school board has agreed to hire the SRO. The Board questioned if the grant can be reapplied for after the 2 years. Mr. Bentzel was unsure if the grant would be available again. He believes that the school district will see such a difference that they will continue having an SRO available.

The work session was adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trena M. Hall, Township Secretary