

TO: Monclova Township Trustees

May 5, 2010

FROM: Monclova Township Police Safety Study Commission

Dear Trustees:

First of all, we would like to compliment you for signing a contract with the Sheriff. In our opinion that was a responsible move for the safety of our community, and allowed us time to review our options. It also gives the Township the right to cancel the agreement at any time with 90 days notice, which gives the Township great flexibility.

Our commission was formed to objectively review the needs for police service in Monclova Township, and make recommendations to the Trustees. Our commission met on November 17 and December 8, 2009; January 12 and February 22, 2010 (see Exhibit A), and included the following in our discussions:

- Sheriff Jim Telb and several members of his staff spoke and answered our questions at our December meeting.
- Requested quotes from area communities for police protection
 - Whitehouse- too expensive
 - Waterville- no offer
 - Waterville Township- no offer
 - Maumee- no offer
 - Holland- needed one or two years before they offered bid to Monclova Township. Their initial bid was too expensive.
 - Springfield- no option at this time because they are utilizing Sheriff too.
- Consultant Stephen Miller to discuss financial options for own police force
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Lieutenant John Altman, Post Commander
- Cost scenarios for hiring our own police force (see Exhibit B)
- Traffic and crime statistics for Monclova Township and surrounding area (see Exhibit C)

We objectively answered the following questions/concerns:

What level of policing are we recommending?

Current level for now, provided by Lucas County Sheriff's department's contract with Monclova Township.

Are residents happy with the current level of officer coverage?

Yes. Most commission members spoke with a cross section of residents, business community leaders and others, and found an overwhelming majority satisfied with the current services provided by the Sheriff's office. In addition, Harold Grimm indicated he

receives only about one (1) call per month regarding any issues with the current police protection.

What are the pros and cons of contracting with the Sheriff?

Advantages:

- you know your cost and they are lower than any other option reviewed
- avoids personnel issues
- ability to reduce services if necessary
- ability to cancel contract with 90 days notice at any time
- can get other providers to bid to provide service
- have unlimited police coverage in case of emergency
- no direct liability issues for Township
- provides support services including detective work, incarceration, SWAT team, etc.
- allows for an established police presence while transitioning to a stand alone department in the future, should that be necessary

Disadvantages:

- don't have as much control over (enforcement philosophy or strategies) since it is not our force.
- Sheriff can cancel contract with 90 days notice, leaving the Township in a difficult position.

What are the pros and cons of forming a regional police force with surrounding communities?

Advantages:

- None for Monclova Township at this time

Disadvantages:

- At this time there appears to be no interest by Maumee, Waterville, Waterville Twp. or Whitehouse to become part of a regional police department
 - Not politically feasible at this time
 - Remaining townships would be the townships that currently cannot afford their own police coverage; have large areas of land with low tax value and few residents who would be unable to pass levies to support a regional police department.
- Lack of control.
 - Arguments would take place between the townships as to how the regional force should be managed day to day
- The concept of a regional police force in Lucas County would have
 - too many political unknowns
 - Unknown costs
 - Unknown challenges
 - Untried and untested in this area
 - Challenges to determine who is "in charge" of regional force for all community members

What are the pros and cons of starting our own police department?

Advantages:

- We can somewhat control our safety procedures and police philosophies.

Disadvantages:

- Costly (levy would be required to fund the department)
 - Dispatching
 - Building
 - Vehicles
 - Insurance
 - Prosecuting
 - Pensions
 - Health care
 - Continuous training
- Personnel issues
- Aggravation to elected officials

Summary

Detailed spreadsheets were developed (see attached exhibit A) to determine the cost of having our own police force in Monclova Township. Compared to what the Sheriff has already offered in a contract, we cannot financially have as much coverage or services on our own.

- It appears the Sheriff has made Monclova a very fair offer for police coverage the next three (3) years.
- Only receive on average one (1) call per month regarding any issues with the current police protection.
- Why would we want to take on the challenges and responsibility of managing a police force, when we can do it more economically with the current offer we have?
- If population growth picks back up in our community, we may need to consider our own police force in the future.

We recommend the following:

- Trustees to confirm whether or not the Lucas County Commissioners should either ratify the contract or be made a party to it so that they are legally bound by the contract along with the Sheriff.
- Seek an opinion from the office of the Ohio Attorney General regarding the extent of the statutory obligation of the Sheriff to provide Law Enforcement services to

the Township, and whether the County, and or Sheriff, can legally pass the cost for those services on to the Township.

- We recommend the current agreement with the Sheriff for one (1) year be extended to a total of five (5) years and suggest the following:
 - Immediately exercise the option for the additional two (2) years and negotiate for an additional two (2) years
 - Limit fee increases, after the third year, to minimal increases primarily due to any labor increases
 - If the county's financial situation improves and Sheriff's funding is increased, the increases should be passed on to Monclova Township in the form of reduced fees
 - Continue with the 90 day cancellation clause at any time.
 - Consider forming a volunteer police force to aid the Sheriff with traffic control, parades, etc., but only if the Sheriff agrees. This group should be trained by the Sheriff and work for the Sheriff. The Sheriff should also be responsible for any liability. We do not feel the Township should train and/or direct these volunteers.

- Assuming our Trustees can come to an acceptable agreement with the Sheriff, which may or may not include the recommendations above, we feel our Commission should continue to exist, but only meet once per year or more often if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Monclova Township Police Safety Study Commission

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