

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP & TULPEHOCKEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Joint Meeting Police Merger
March 16, 2016**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Deck. In attendance were Gary Deck, Lester Feick and Richard Kramer. The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Kauffman III. In attendance were Jake Meyer, Carl Kauffman, Mike Graby and Jayne Seifrit. Meeting was held in the Bethel Township Meeting Room at 60 Klahr Rd, Bethel Township. Other interested persons were in attendance.

Goals – Jake Meyer stated he would like to see if merging would increase coverage for the residents keeping in mind safety and financial responsibilities.

Gary Deck wants to see what can be done using cross coverage or if there would be advantages in merging. He expressed the budget is already at the top, there is nowhere to squeeze more money from. He doesn't want to raise taxes; Rick Kramer agreed.

Carl Kauffman stated the location last time was a sticking point.

General discussion on when and types of crimes ensued. John Kintzer stated the 2012 study analyzed crimes.

Herb Zechman stated there is an agreement in place for cross coverage between the two Townships. Herb Zechman also stated the building is here where it was not in 2012. The Boards should look to see what is here.

Tulpehocken at the present contracts police services to Marion Township at 60 hours per month and 24 hours to the Tulpehocken School District while in session.

Kris Kerschner stated they give the state police a copy of their schedule so they know when coverage from the state is needed. Ryan Murphy stated that is not done at this time in Bethel. A joint department could do more proactive projects, such as truck inspections. At present the departments need to call in support if a truck has safety issues. The response time can be lengthy.

Are there grants available? Jayne said she looked to see if there are any; Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) grant funds through DCED and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Regional Police Assistance Grant Program.

What has to happen to move forward or just get answers for the questions posed? Jayne will check to see what grants, and for what purposes. John Kintzer asked what the benefits to the residents are if changes are made. It was stated that is what we are looking to answer. Jake Meyer wonders if there could be savings on the overlap shifts. Jayne asked for prior schedules for Tulpehocken so she can chart the two departments to see if there could be savings. Everyone is to think of pros/cons/ to do merger/regionalization/cross coverage until next meeting.

Next meeting to be held April 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm with Tulpehocken Township advertising the meeting

Mike Graby made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Kauffman. All agreed. Motion carried. Lester Feick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick Kramer. All agreed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne K Seifrit, Bethel Township Manager