

October 3, 2011 Joint Board of Supervisors Meeting With Tulpehocken Township and Bethel Township.

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting with Bethel Township was called to order by Chairman John Kintzer at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center located on the northeast corner of Route 501 and I-78. Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was in session at this time. Those attending the meeting were John Kintzer, Rick Kramer, Kathy Boltz, Randall Haag, Herb Zechman Jr, Ken Norton, Jayne Seifrit, Chief Kerschner, Chief Hepler, Chief Joe Kirschner, and other interested persons.

The joint meeting was held to discuss the results of the Regional Police Study that was performed for Tulpehocken and Bethel Township. Chairman Randall Haag turned the meeting over to Chief Joe Kirschner to present the study. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Demographics of the communities
- Comparison of the townships population, square miles, road miles, crimes, officers, & Budgets
- Proposed police staffing levels
- Regional police department comparison
- 2012 proposed PD Budget/Personnel costs
- 2012 proposed PD Budget/non-personnel costs
- 2012 proposed cost distribution for each township
- 2012 per capita costs & housing unit costs
- Sample modular building floor plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A resident commented that they like having local police; it is a quicker response and more personal than State Police. The State Police are stretched thin and cover the entire county.

Ken Norton asked how the Regional Police will be governed. Chief Joe Kirschner replied that it is governed by a commission most likely made up of three people (1 Supervisor from each Board and one resident) and that they are the governing body who retains a solicitor and an auditing firm, creates and maintains the budget, discipline, hire, fire, etc. The Board of Supervisors would no longer have control. The Regional Commission then reports to the Board of Supervisors. Chief Joe Kirschner recommended contacting other regional departments and ask them how it works and if they like it.

Herb Zechman questioned the operating expenses and if this amount is adequate. Chief Joe Kirschner's response was that you can change the amounts in the budget; the line items were taken from the information gathered for the study.

Residents also asked if this would increase the coverage. The response was an increase by one officer and an increase in office staff as well as the police office will be open more hours for the public. As of now the study does not provide for 24 hour coverage but more officers could be added if desired.

Chairman Randall Haag commented that there would be a financial savings when it comes to

purchasing the new county radios and when the computers and the software are updated.

Gary Deck asked what shifts the officers would be working. Chief Kris Kerschner replied that they would probably cover from 7:00 am to 2:00 am with shift overlap a few hours throughout.

Chairman John Kinzter asked the public attending the meeting if they were in favor of the regionalization. By a show of hands the majority of the people were for it.

A resident asked when the Townships will decide. Chairman Randall Haag replied that Bethel will discuss and notify Tulpehocken when they are ready to talk.

Chief Kris Kerschner was asked how the police chiefs feel about the regionalization. His reply was that they are for it mainly for the safety of the officers.

It was also discussed that the police department can apply and receive grants once regionalized and the grants are easy and direct.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Rick Kramer made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:45 p.m. John Kintzer second the motion, upon a roll call vote both Board Members cast a yes vote. Bethel Township Board of Supervisors continued their meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Boltz

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township