

Village of Waterman  
Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Waterman Village Hall  
215 W. Adams St.  
Waterman, IL 60556  
Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6:00pm

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

**Roll Call:** Trustee Radtke, Trustee Calhoun, Trustee Johanningsmeier, Special Guests Village Manager Nykaza, Police Chief Swanson

Approve meeting minutes from November 29, 2021. Trustee Johanningsmeier made motion, Trustee Calhoun second. Passed 3/0.

**New Business:** Discussed police coverage. The conversation was prompted after a number of individuals attended a public hearing with concerns about police coverage. Discussed total number of hours of coverage we currently have and goals. We currently cover 118 hours per week (70%). The goal is to increase by up to 30 hours per week to allow for more overall coverage and more overlap of coverage. Trustee Radtke reported our police budget is 32% of our overall municipal budget. The average nationally ranges from 8% to 44%, with Chicago at 37%. Waterman is on the higher end of the range and is appropriate based on size. In reviewing the size of other police forces in the state, the range of officers per 1000 residents ranges from 1.3-1.9, with 1.6 as the average. Chief Swanson contested he would like to see that ratio at 1 for every 600 residents. Trustee Radtke pointed out both are very similar recommendations. Trustee Radtke also spoke to moving our part time officer to fulltime. We would only be adding 8 additional hours of coverage per week and would cost the village almost \$23,000, including salary and benefits. \$23,000 would allow for an additional 22 hours of part time coverage per week. Chief Swanson will be working on additional hiring and will keep the committee updated.

Discussed coverage expectations while officers are on duty. Officers know to patrol most of the time. This includes both active patrol and remaining stationary in hot spots for 20-30 minutes or longer, depending on activity. Committee commented that they see the police officers patrolling regularly in the evenings and on weekends. Discussed how each squad has an assigned officer and odometer readings are presented at each board meeting. Will use that as a measure of patrol officer expectations.

Discussed speed zone ahead signs on Duffy Road, traveling west into town, and Waterman Road, traveling north into town. Committee is recommending we put speed zone ahead signs at least 500 feet prior to these signs as a courtesy to travelers. Otherwise officers should be allowing some tolerance as individuals are slowing down. Village Manager Nykaza will reach out to the township for their blessing and will recommend installing these signs with board approval.

**Public Comment:** Concerns were raised about hiring part time officers vs. full time officers. Concern is their loyalty to the town and overall commitment to the department. Also, it takes time and resources to train part time officers.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:28PM.



Submitted by:  
Dr. Sarah Radtke, Village Trustee