

(S. Moskwa, T. Corrigan, A. Myers, Margaret Doud)

(Erin Evashevski, M. Gruits, M. Ruddell, D. Leach, Allen Burt, Lindsey White)

Discussion of Senior Transport MIPD – Chief Mike Gruits met with the committee about the senior transport, the recently updated and changed items on the forms policy for this winter season. The committee and Chief Gruits spoke in depth about the times, staff, the amount of transports between 50-60 a day with the lack of snow, the discussion was around the necessity of the transport trips, officer safety concerns, history was a part of the conversation and the written policy, the time frame was instituted due to lack of staff and shift changes, alcohol consumption, the taxi being available for taxi services was talked about and how they are underutilized, that the transport should not be a taxi service. During previous meetings changes were talked about and the committee had asked in the past for the MIPD to figure out their changes and bring it back to committee for approvals/communication purposes so the council and committee can be aware of possible changes and weigh in on them moving forward. At this time the policy will remain the same, however if changes are being made the committee would like to see them and we can revisit the current policy with the possible hiring of the extra officer to be fully staffed to extend the hours on the weekends. At this time the officers are trying to accommodate some of those later trips, however it comes down to manpower, chief Gruits possibly can look at current schedules to see if we can accommodate this request. This is a possible ongoing discussion.

Continued Discussion of K-9 Position MIPD – Chief Mike Gruits met with the Committee about the K-9 position, He was approached by a donor that is willing to pay for the annual salary of \$1,220.00, that will help maintain the dogs and their work. She is requesting \$20.00 an hour if activated. In the event of a search her dog is able to follow a scent, and is a cadaver dog. She also has a therapy K-9. She can offer support to officers, school students, medical care staff and other EMS responders for their well-being. She can be used in a crisis. She is willing to be a private contractor. The Committee has asked the chief to track the utilization of Sue and her K-9's if approved at Council. The Committee recommends approving this as a temporary basis, starting in the new April 1, 2025 budget and is to be reviewed in a one-year period next February 2026 to assess the use of her contract.

Continued Discussion of Social Worker Position MIPD – Chief Gruits spoke to the committee about the need of a social worker position, however if he has to choose between the office priorities he believes the additional officer is the bigger priority and more of a dire need. The committee has still asked for the MIPD to apply for the grant for the Social worker position previously discussed in other meetings. There was some discussion if a Social worker would be a better fit for another organization. Chief Gruits informed the committee the grant funding is only for a new position for a police station. This is an ongoing discussion.

Discussion of possibly adding the hiring of a 6th officer (Part Time Seasonal) in February, not to exceed the 9-month mark – Chief Gruits spoke with the committee in length about response, emergencies, routine patrol, transport services, incidents, summer and winter activity on the Island and response times. Currently there is one officer working alone on the night shift, which is a concern for the officer on duty and feels insufficient. Chief Gruits spoke to the committee about a properly staffed police department which would be two officers on during the day shifts and two officers on during the night shifts. There is an officer the MIPD has in mind and ready to start work during February. The committee has asked myself and chief Gruits to work on some numbers as this was not budgeted for, pay rate, weekly hours, some mock up schedules and current budgetary numbers. This is an ongoing discussion.

Discussion of E-bikes, Signage and the Ordinance. – There was a short discussion about enforcement, signs and an Ordinance Committee Meeting needed. E-bikes has been sent to the next Public Safety Committee meeting on January 29th at 2:00pm, so the committee would have more time to go in depth and discuss this subject.

Discussion of possible weekly or bi-weekly chief notes to Mayor and Public Safety Committee, similar to what Allen Burt does for the DPW/City Council – Steve talked to chief Gruits about doing a biweekly update of some of the informational items that take place, not police information, appropriate community type information and updates of incident summaries, etc. Chief Gruits agreed and will be sending out some communication to keep Council and the Mayor up to date with the happenings on the Island. Currently he does provide the Mayor with updates.