

CITY OF FRANKLIN
POLICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

13 February 2019

Present:

Councilor Karen Testerman
Councilor Jo Brown
Councilor Vincent Ribas

City Manager Judie Milner
Chief David Goldstein
Councilor George Dzujna
Bill Yakapucci

The Committee meeting was called to order at 1730 hours.

It was stated that the meeting had been requested by Councilor Brown to discuss the acquisition of a comfort dog by the Franklin Police Department.

Councilor Testerman inquired as to the role of the K9 as well as the funding source(s).

Councilor Brown explained the program in depth to includes the fact that the K9 is not a patrol K9. In addition, printed information was provided by Councilor Brown.

Further explanation included the fact that the Comfort Dog program is a nationally recognized training paradigm.

At present, the Concord Police Department has the first comfort dog in NH and, should it go forth, Franklin would be the second.

Councilor Brown stated that she and Sgt. Joe Guerriero visited the Hero Pups organization in Exeter before Thanksgiving 2018 as part of the background research of the program.

It was also stated that the Franklin Fire Department might well be a part of the initiative.

Additional information included the recognized roles of therapy and comfort dogs in dealing with members of the public, children, crime victims, police officers, etc. Overall, the K9 is available for a variety of occasions and incidents.

The K9 would have 2 primary handlers vis-à-vis overall responsibility and care and feeding. However, the K9 would be trained to work with any member of the FPD and, should the plan include such personnel, the FFD.

Fund raising opportunities were discussed and it was noted that these issues remain with the FPD. It was also mentioned that the patrol K9s are funded by outside organizations to include veterinary care, food, etc.

The visit by Concord PD's comfort K9 was discussed.

Councilor Dzujna asked if the FPD would have the timer to devote to a comfort dog. The reply from Chief Goldstein was in the affirmative.

It was stressed that this initiative is in the very beginning stages and that no K9 has been acquired.

The need for an MOU was mentioned.

The time-line was discussed with no specific dates offered.

A motion to move forward was made by Councilor Ribas and seconded by Councilor Brown.

The motion passed.

Other Business:

Councilor raised the issue of the need for a stop sign on Elkins Street. Chief Goldstein suggested the issue be presented to MSD and the Highway Safety Committee as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 1825 hours.

Submitted by:

Chief David B. Goldstein