

Town of Garfield
COMMUNITY MEETING ON POLICE SERVICES - DRAFT
April 3, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, John Kuehner, Tim Southern & Rob Watkins. Absent: Clark Johnson.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: Donald Brown, Sally Elder, Scott Ellsworth, Gayle Eversole, Barbara Foley, Justin Gibbs, Roy Hanson, David Jones, Melody Jones, Daymon Marple, Jana Mathia, Jean McCown, Palouse Officer Joe Merry, Palouse Chief Jerry Neumann, Greg Partch, Sherry Partch, Annie Pillers Clerk-Treasurer, Michelle Rose, Palouse Councilmember Rick Wekenman, Dave Ulrick, and Mark Young.

The council presented the idea of town police services through the City of Palouse. Mayor Pfaff explained the proposal would provide the town with police coverage daily on a varied time schedule and 24-hour on-call service. Chief Neumann indicated the proposal would include 5 hours of coverage 7 days a week between 3 officers – himself, Joe Merry and a 3rd officer to be hired, plus 24-hour on call. Chief Neumann would provide administration and attend council meetings, school meetings, etc.

Mayor Pfaff opened the meeting up to the community for questions and comments.

Jean McCown asked about local code enforcement and who to call in an emergency or the middle of the night. Mayor Pfaff and Chief Neumann confirmed local ordinances would be enforced, including dog licensing and impoundment, junk cars and junk. Chief Neumann indicated, as is now; call 911 in the event of an emergency. He noted an officer would be on-call and respond as quickly as possible, day or night.

Sherry Partch spoke in support of the idea, indicating that the council had done their research and had developed a good proposal.

Scott Ellsworth asked if any other options were explored, overall costs, and council involvement. Mayor Pfaff and Larry Hunt noted the council had looked at both hiring a new officer as an employee of the town and getting police services through Palouse. At this time, the council did not explore a contract with the county. Chief Neumann noted the contract the City of Tekoa had with the county was \$81,000. Mayor Pfaff confirmed the proposed contract with Palouse was for \$66,000 annually. The current town budget for the police department was \$63,000.

Scott further asked about residency and qualification of the third officer, department oversight and the contract duration. Mayor Pfaff and Chief Neumann confirmed the hiring criteria required previous law enforcement experience. Chief Neumann was open to the officer living within the vicinity of either Garfield or Palouse. Mayor Pfaff noted the Garfield town council would be responsible for police services within the town and the Palouse city council would be responsible for police services within their community. Officer Merry relayed his experience that both councils talk issues over with the police department. He also noted his consideration for the Garfield community and that he would not be part of a proposal that he did not think was good for the community. He felt it would provide the town with more coverage and better coverage without burning out an officer. Mayor Pfaff indicated the city attorney had no problem with the concept and would be drafting a contract if the council decided to act on the proposal. The contract would allow either community to withdraw with 6 months notice to the other.

Roy Hanson relayed the ongoing problem with barking dogs and enforcement. Larry Hunt suggested this be one of the first priorities of the police department.

Mayor Pfaff thanked the community for attending. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

ATTEST:

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer