

**LEWISVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

Digitally Originating in Council Chambers – Town Hall 1st Floor – 6510 Shallowford Road

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Harlan Cobert opened the meeting being streamed electronically at 5:30 PM. In attendance were Harlan Cobert, Chris Cobert, Dale Harriman, Warren McMahan, Sergeant PJ Stringer, Lewisville Fire Chief Darin Needham and Vienna Fire Chief Tim Lasley. Ronald Morris was excused.
- b. Mayor Horn shared that 36 elementary school children visited Town Hall that day meeting with Mayor Horn and Sergeant Stringer. Mayor Horn also thanked the committee for their volunteerism.

II. Agenda Approval – Chris Cobert moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dale Harriman and approved with a roll call vote of ayes from Chair Cobert and members Cobert, Harriman and McMahan. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Minutes Approval – Warren McMahan made a motion to approve the September 7, 2021 minutes. Chris Cobert seconded the motion. Motion failed. Chris Cobert made a motion to table approval of the September 7, 2021 minutes until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dale Harriman and approved with a roll call vote of ayes from Chair Cobert and members Cobert, Harriman and McMahan.

IV. Public Safety Reports

- a. Forsyth County Sheriff's Office – Sergeant Stringer shared that overdose calls have increased. Typically, more emotionally distressed calls are received around the holidays. Sergeant Stringer also shared that priority response times are 5-6 minutes.
- b. Lewisville Fire Department – Chief Needham shared his department is working with a new human resources provider to streamline the process. Two career firefighters and an administrative assistant were recently hired putting the department at full staff. Posting for additional part-time help, specifically around holidays, is forthcoming. Chief Needham shared the department took delivery of a new water rescue trailer on October 4. This allows the department to maintain one water rescue vehicle at the station should one need to be deployed in other areas of the state. It was noted that any calls EMS cannot reach in 10 minutes are being dispatched to the department.
- c. Vienna Fire Department – Chief Lasley shared that three new volunteers joined his department: one cadet, one experienced and one non-experienced. The department has been conducting fire prevention programs at schools this week since it is Fire Prevention Week.

V. Guests – None

VI. Old Business

- a. Comprehensive Plan Goals – Chair Cobert shared the Town's Comprehensive Plan will be a guide. He noted street lighting requests are looked at by either the Town's Planning Director and NCDOT, depending on location.
- b. PSAC 2021-2022 Goals
 - i. The following goals were set: 1) educate the community on public safety and emergency preparedness; 2) continue to monitor progress of Forsyth County Emergency Operations Plan; 3) develop a tabletop plan for when Emergency Operations Plan is approved; and, 4) request Town to consider civilian-based Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and establish within HOAs and/or churches.

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- ii. Chair Cobert established a subcommittee consisting of Chris Cobert and Warren McMahan to evaluate how to reach out to the HOAs. The subcommittee will establish goals, timeline, presentation, etc.
 - iii. Chief Lasley will develop a list of area scouts who are working towards their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge who may assist with the Emergency Operations Plan.
 - iv. In August 2022, Chair Cobert plans to present a proclamation to Town Council declaring September 2022 as Emergency Preparedness Month noting this would help with the committee's education goal.
 - v. The committee will discuss with the Town possible options of educating the community on public safety and emergency preparedness which may include newsletter articles, QR codes, Channel 6, and/or social media.
- c. Emergency Operations Plan – Forsyth County has not finalized their plan; therefore, the Town plan has not been amended.

VII. New Business

- a. Community Policing – Chair Cobert stated now is the time to evaluate the need and sustainability of a new deputy, particularly a corporal position. The committee wishes to be proactive versus reactive. It was noted that if the Town has an officer they like, they are subject to lose that officer due to promotions. The evaluation needs to consider the Town's size, projected growth for both homes and businesses, and call statistics. The committee hopes to present to Council the first of 2022. Sergeant Stringer noted that when the Town added the sergeant position, it allowed for another position to be added if desired.

VIII. **For the Good of the Order** - Next schedule meeting is November 2, 2021.

IX. **Adjournment** – Chris Cobert moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Warren McMahan and the motion was approved unanimously by a vote of ayes.

ATTEST:

Harlan Cobert, Chair

Dora K. Moore, Town Clerk