

PUBLIC SAFETY STUDY COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE LEDGEVIEW TOWN BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ledgeview Public Safety Study Committee has been meeting since September 2008 to review police coverage options for the community. The Ledgeview Public Safety Committee recommends the following information for review and consideration by the Ledgeview Town Board:

SCOPE OF STUDY:

A Strategic analysis of police coverage options which are available to Ledgeview that includes an overview of the following:

- Current police services
- Demand for police services (crime trends, calls for service)
- Plans and projections for future growth
- Community needs, desires, expectations and support for various options
- Fiscal resources and the impact of funding police services
- Existing resources that might be made available, if any, for any of the various options for services that are reviewed.

The assessment was completed in a three-stage process: (1) gather as much information and data as possible from a variety of sources; (2) analyze and interpret the information, and (3) translate the findings into decisions about the nature and scope of police services the community needs.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- David Tellock, 35-year Law Enforcement Veteran and former Chief of Police for the Village of Kohler, and Cities of De Pere and Cudahy and Ledgeview Resident
- Jeffrey Van Straten, Town Chairman
- Joe Schlag, Ledgeview Fire Chief
- Tim Beno, Town Supervisor
- Carl Thiem, Member of Ledgeview Fire Committee and Ledgeview Resident
- Scott Brosteau, Ledgeview Resident and Town Engineer
- Tom Schrank, 31 year- Law Enforcement Veteran and Ledgeview Resident

- Darin Jeanquart, former Mayor of City of Kewaunee and now Ledgeview Resident

Public Safety Committee

May 4, 2009

- Sarah Burdette, Town Administrator, Staff

COMMUNITY SURVEY:

In December 2008-January 2009, a community-wide survey was conducted. The purpose of the survey was to gather a sense of what residents viewed the current level of police service was and where residents viewed additional police service was needed. Survey results were reviewed and a general theme was that police service should remain status quo, but to continue to monitor the types, frequency and other related police call data. (ATTACHMENT A)

OPTIONS REVIEWED

- **CREATION OF A BRAND NEW LEDGEVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Wisconsin Statutes provide that a Town may provide local law enforcement services. Just like a city or village, a Town may elect to establish its own local department.

The advantages of the town police department option are that the Town of Ledgeview would maximize the extent of its local control over law enforcement services in that the town board would play a significant role in the budgeting, hiring of personnel, and the establishment of the police department's administration.

The disadvantages of the town police department option are that the Town of Ledgeview would need to create a board of police commissioners; would need to staff its department and provide a chief of police, supervisors and support staff; would need to provide adequate space for police operations; would have to incur costs of a chief, hiring new officers, conducting adequate pre-employment background checks, training officers, and initial equipment purchases; would have to think about loss of employees, i.e. "training ground" scenario.

Attached to this report is a summary document entitled "Creation of Police Department" that includes specifics about this option.(ATTACHMENT B)

- **CONTRACT SERVICES WITH AN EXISTING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A variety of credible alternatives exist for Ledgeview if it chooses to contract for law enforcement services with an adjacent municipality, De Pere Police Department or with an entity like the Brown County Sheriff's Department. For the community contracting such police service there are considerable fiscal reductions in administrative costs and personnel issues. Contracting allows for economies of scale.

Attached to this report is a summary document entitled "Contracted Police Services" that includes specifics about this option. (ATTACHMENT C)

Public Safety Committee

May 4, 2009

- **CONSOLIDATION WITH ANOTHER EXISTING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

With a joint police department, costs are split between the participating communities through a contractual formula and an independent joint police commission governing the department with representatives from both communities. The major advantage is that the costs and duties are a shared responsibility.

Note: This option was looked into, however there are no available partners at this time.

- **MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO – BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE TOWN OF LEDGEVIEW**

The Town of Ledgeview can remain a township of over 5000 people and still enjoy the law enforcement services that it currently receives. Nothing in WI Statute 60.56 requires a Town to perform investigatory services, or to even have a police department.

The Town of Ledgeview, via intergovernmental agreement with the City of De Pere dated August 12, 1998, contract with the City of De Pere for Police-School Liaison Officer Services and Enforcement of Town ordinances for violations of the law thereof occurring on or about the De Pere Middle School and Heritage Elementary School.

RECOMMENDATION TO LEDGEVIEW TOWN BOARD

The Public Safety Study Committee does hereby recommend the following to the Ledgeview Town Board:

The Town of Ledgeview should seek to maintain police service levels that are currently being provided by the Brown County Sheriff's Department. The Committee will reconvene in September 2009 to continue to review crime statistics as well as continue to measure the above options so that at such time that Ledgeview chooses to provide services beyond the current level or at such time that Ledgeview becomes a village, a complete subsequent evaluation and recommendation can be provided to the Ledgeview elected officials at that time.

Additionally, the Public Safety Study Committee will continue to monitor any other grant opportunities, like the COPS program, for any future funding sources.

*Public Safety Committee
May 4, 2009*

ATTACHMENT B

Creation of Police Department

This option envisions Ledgeview creating and funding its own police force. Funding would come almost exclusively from its municipal tax base.

The major advantage for Ledgeview with this option is control. The major disadvantages are cost and ongoing management plus the time required to actually create a police force from scratch.

Key services performed would be:

- Coverage: generally one squad car 168 hours per week (full time)
- Patrolling
- Enforcement of local ordinances
- Incident response
- Investigations

Department resources

- Chief working a 40 hour administrative week
- Six officers with two officers on duty at any one time
- Two squad cars completely outfitted
- A Chief's vehicle
- All necessary equipment: uniforms, weapons, etc
- Office space, communications gear, evidence locker, interrogation room
- Garage space

Costs

One time start up cost is estimated at \$154,000

- Vehicles: Fully equipped squad car cost is \$46,000. Total expenditure is \$92,000.
- Uniforms and personal equipment: The estimated per capita cost is \$5000. Total expenditure is \$35,000
- Weapons: Estimated per capita of \$1500. Total expenditure is \$10,500
- Office space, communications gear, etc: Estimate a total expenditure of \$16,500.

Annual operating expense is estimated at \$596,000

- Wages \$370,000
- Benefits and payroll taxes \$173,000

Public Safety Committee

May 4, 2009

- Vehicle \$ 27,000
- Training, physicals, admin, upkeep \$ 26,000
- Vehicle depreciation non cash

On-going department management

Beside the time and effort to create this department, there are many managerial issues that would require the time of both the Chief and the Ledgerview staff. Such issues include:

- Personnel hiring, training, evaluation, discipline
- Vacation/sick/leave of absence scheduling
- Pay and benefit administration
- Union contract negotiations and issue resolution
- Vehicle maintenance
- Onboard radio/computers upkeep and upgrades
- Investigation/evidence administration
- Annual budgeting
- Mutual aid planning and co-ordination

ATTACHMENT C

Contracted Police Services

This option envisions Ledgeview contracting with the Brown County Sheriff's Department for police services. The Sheriff's Department already provides such contracted services to several communities; the oldest began in 1969 with the Village of Allouez. (so essentially a proven product). Generally the contract is three years in length and calls for 8 hours of contracted patrol coverage per day the first year, 16 hours the second and 24 hours the third. The contract can be renewed or terminated after the third year. The Sheriff's Department provides the staffing, expertise and administrative support. Ledgeview would purchase and maintain the squad car.

The major advantages for Ledgeview with this option is a three year ramp up on cost and the ability to leverage the Sheriff's Department expertise and resources. (so all personnel management issues associated with a Ledgeview police department are eliminated)

Contractual services provided consist of:

- Coverage: seven days per week with above annual schedule
- Patrolling
- Incident response
- Investigations
- Access to all Sheriff's Department resources

Ledgeview provided resources consist of:

- The purchase of a completely outfitted squad car
- The maintenance and operating expenses of this vehicle

Costs

One time start up cost is estimated at \$46,000 for a fully outfitted squad car.

Annual vehicle operating expense: \$14,000 (gas, repairs, tires, insurance, maintenance contracts but excludes any non cash depreciation expense)

Annual contractual patrol cost with investigative and administrative support

- 1st year: 8 hour coverage per day \$190,000
- 2nd year: 16 hour coverage \$379,000

Public Safety Committee

May 4, 2009

- 3rd year: 24 hour coverage \$569,000

Total annual 3rd year cost: \$583,000

Special feature: The Sheriff's Department also offers a DEO (Directed Enforcement officer) option. As a village, this option is available once 24/7 patrol coverage has been established. The role of the DEO is to supplement the patrol coverage. The DEO is assigned permanently to Ledgeview, is under direct control of Ledgeview and works to develop solutions to problems unique to Ledgeview. Unlike the contracted patrol service, there is no replacement when the DEO is on vacation, sick, etc. As a town, this option could be used to supplement the present Brown County Sheriff patrol coverage. The annual cost of one contracted DEO is \$86,000 plus the expenses associated with a Ledgeview owned squad car.

Public Safety Committee

May 4, 2009