

**Village of West Jefferson
POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes

June 26, 2023

Called to Order:

Chair Sam Cahill called the Police Committee Meeting to Order at 6:21 P.M.

Roll Call:

Police Committee Members: Sam Cahill; Richard King; and Howard Wade

Quorum Declare: 2 present, 1 absent.

Also Attending: Council President, Linda S. Hall; Mayor, Ray Martin; Acting Chief of Police, Brandon Smith; and Clerk of Council, Tisha Edwards

The Agenda:

Motion to Adopt the Agenda of the 5 April 2023, Police Committee Meeting moved by Mr. Wade and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

VOICED VOTE AFFIRMED

Motion Carries 2-0.

Old Business:

The patrol cars are on their way. They are at a facility being outfitted at this time. The Canine car is almost complete, but just needs its striping placed which will be July 10th 2023. It is very particular on how it is marked and cared for due to the Canine Dog being considered an officer too.

New Business:

A. K9 Police Program.

Lt. Smith Opened the meeting by explaining the program. He was the previous K9 Handler from 2015-2021. During that time the program was very successful and are looking forward to reimplementing the program for the community and adjacent agencies. During the time of not having a K9 we have had to depend on the City of London or the Village of Plain City. Plain City just recently lost their K-9 to cancer. The Madison County Sheriff is also pursuing a K-9 and looking to use the same trainer as we are. In the past 3 months there have been calls to service that a K-9 would have been very valuable to the call.

Mr. Wade How long does it normally take to train the dog and the handler once they are received?

Lt Smith The dog is coming from Europe and is normally trained at a year and a half old. This particular dog is ready. The dog then comes to the States and is imprinted with any additional imprints. The dog is usually imprinted with illicit drugs, human tracking, article search/clothing. Some dogs are used for bombs and tactical purposes as well.

Ms. Hall Why do we have to go outside of America to get them?

Lt. Smith It is due to their blood line. Europe is very strong in old bloodlines and is used to develop working dogs and America is not at the same level.

Mr. Wade Will we be loaning out our K9 to other counties or agencies?

Lt Smith Open Mutual Aide is very important. We have used this in the past and benefited greatly. The Federal agencies that track the cartels will contact us at any point when a K9 is needed on 70 or on SR 40, which is used as a cartel route to avoid 70, to assist other agencies. When this happens and it goes to court, and the drugs/money are seized we will receive a 35% kick back from assisting with those stops. That money can be applied towards anything within the Police Department, (training, equipment etc.). Currently we have over \$11, 000.00 in that fund due to past K-9 seizures. Different courts are used depending on the cartels and size of the seizures.

Mayor Martin Is the dog certified through the state or the county? They can make a bust all over the state, correct?

Lt Smith Yes. The state requires the handler & dog to be tested out annually, sometimes bi-annually. You are then covered anywhere in the state for mutual aide.

Mayor Martin A resident questioned in the past if the K-9 was keeping the Department from writing tickets or deterring them from Village work. Records were reviewed and seen that the K-9 officer was not the least ticket writing officer and it did not deter duties from the Village.

Lt Smith This K-9 will be used with a Patrol Officer on the road. There are 4 current Officers in the Village that have expressed interest in being that officer. We will not be hiring another officer for this position. We will be replacing Sergeant Martin in the Department but that is due to a promotion. Once Nathan's position is filled, we will be fully staffed.

Mayor Martin I have spoken with the trainer, Mitch, and stressed to him that we want the right officer working with the K-9 and he stated he would be very involved with choosing the Officer who will get the K-9.

Ms. Cahill so once the decision is made which Officer will work with the dog, what is the time frame that the Officer would get that dog at their home?

Lt Smith the process normally takes about a month. The socialization with the home and family is very important and will be done in small burst.

Ms. Cahill No other dogs are allowed in the home with the K9?

Lt Smith You can have other animals, it just takes a little longer for the dog to adjust.

Mayor Martin and the owner/trainer is available for the life of the dog, correct? No additional fees?

Lt Smith Correct. The dog and the handler will go to the trainer's facility every other week or as needed for training and will help with adjustments too. The nice part is our trainer is located here in West Jefferson.

Mr. Wade Can they make the dog bilingual?

Lt Smith They are because he is trained in Dutch but before they come to the United States, they know calls and disciplines in English too.

Ms. Cahill So we have \$24,829 that can go towards the cost of the dog?

Lt Smith Yes, we have various donors and funds in the budget. The dog is here and ready once we have approval from Council.

Ms. Cahill Is this the first dog that he has trained, or has he had others?

Lt Smith He has trained others. He has a domestic side, a rescue side, and a police side. He started out with decoy work in the military with training dogs. He trains New Albany's, Reynoldsburg, Dublin, Westerville, and OSU dogs as well. He has been doing this for almost 20 years.

Mr. Wade Well I personally do not see any downside to this

Ms. Cahill Would you all like to watch the video first or vote?

Everyone The video first

Mr. Crosten Will the K-9 car need to be fully outfitted as far as technology?

Lt Smith The current car has everything except the camera system. When we used it before the camera systems were not being used but we will need that eventually. There is a quote for what that will cost, but it will not stop the program. The officer will have a body camera, but the cruiser camera will be helpful.

Video

Discussions were held about the pay for the officer and that the officer would need to commit to the dog and the pay. We would not want someone to take over the dog and then leave after a year due to promotion.

The committee asked if Vet care is included in the cost of the canine, and it is. West Jefferson Animal hospital gives us ½ off care due to him being a K-9. They offer great care for the dog. Since he is a working dog, a lot of his cost will be covered by the money that he brings in too.

The dog's name was Rocky in Europe but when he came to the United States, he was renamed Diego. He will not be renamed because he was imprinted under the name Diego and that is the name he knows.

Lieutenant Smith was able to share various stories/events that happened in the past with his previous K-9 and how a new dog would be such an asset to our Village. He will be used in the schools and in various community events. The trainer and the dog are available and will be at the July 5th Council meeting for everyone to meet. The Finance Committee will meet Thursday June 29th to discuss appropriation approval.

B. Should this be Brought Before Council?

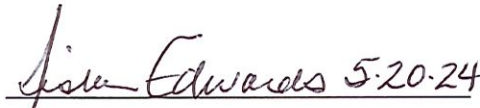
As a result of this discussion, The Police Committee Members would like the Entire Council to consider;

RESOLUTION 23-050, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTRACT WITH CHRISTIAN K9 ACADEMY FOR A REPLACEMENT CANINE, HANDLER COURSE, FULL VETERINARY CHECK, ALL SHOTS AND ASSOCIATED CANINE EQUIPMENT LISTED IN THE CONTRACT AT A COST OF \$18,000.00.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:53 P.M. by Ms. Cahill and seconded by Mr. Wade.

VOICED VOTE AFFIRMED

Motion Carries 2-0.


Tisha Edwards 5-20-24

Tisha Edwards
Clerk of Council


Samantha Cahill 5-20-24

Samantha Cahill
Chairperson

RESOLUTION 23-050, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTRACT WITH CHRISTIAN K9 ACADEMY FOR A REPLACEMENT CANINE, HANDLER COURSE, FULL VETERINARY CHECK, ALL SHOTS AND ASSOCIATED CANINE EQUIPMENT LISTED IN THE CONTRACT AT A COST OF \$18,000.00.

WHEREAS, the Village of West Jefferson canine unit has been retired, and

WHEREAS, The Village has received generous donations of \$12,500.00. Donations are from the Rader-McDonald-Tidd Funeral Home, \$4,500.00; Battelle, \$5,000.00; and the Madison County Prosecutors Office, \$3,000.00 for the support of our canine unit, **NOW THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council, Village of West Jefferson, County of Madison, State of Ohio, with a majority of members therefore concurring as follows:

SECTION I: Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to contract with Christian K9 Academy for a replacement canine, handler course, full veterinary check, all shots and associated canine equipment listed in the contract, at a cost of \$18,000.00.

SECTION II: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest period of time allowed by law.

PASSED THIS 5th day of July, 2023

Linda Hall _____
President of Council Date

Date received by Mayor _____
Date Approved by Mayor _____

ATTEST:

Ray A. Martin, Mayor

Tisha Edwards _____
Clerk of Council Date

Sections Vetoed: _____

Approved as to Form:

J. Michael Murray _____
Director of Law Date

Ray A. Martin, Mayor _____
Date Vetoed