

Village of Johnson City

Dissolution Study Committee

September 15, 2009

Johnson City Board of Trustees
Village of Johnson City
243 Main Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Attached are recommendations to the Johnson City Dissolution Report and Plan prepared by the Dissolution Study Committee in response to the questions posed by the Board of Trustees at its special work session on September 11, 2009.

Sincerely,



William Klish, Chair
Johnson City Dissolution Study Committee

Village of Johnson City

Dissolution Study Committee

To: Village Board of Trustees

From: Johnson City Dissolution Study Committee

Re: Response and Recommendation re: Police Protection

Date: September 15, 2009

In response to questions and concerns raised by the Johnson City Board of Trustees at its September 11, 2009 special work session, the Committee reviewed the Plan's recommendations regarding police protection. Presently, the Johnson City Police Department has 19 patrolmen assigned to road patrol. In addressing the patrol situation in the village, the Committee reviewed the Police Department's patrol schedules. Those schedules indicated that two patrolmen were assigned to the morning-midday shift, four patrolmen to the midday-evening shift and three patrolmen to the night shift. This is the same number of on-duty deputies that Sheriff adopted in his plan which called for the hiring of 18 deputies for road patrol in Johnson City.

However as a result of the concerns and comments from the public and Village Trustees, the Committee recommends adding four additional deputies, thus providing an even greater level of protection than exists today. In his September 3, 2009 letter which is attached to this addendum, Broome County Sheriff Harder committed to implementing this increase, if recommended.

According to the Sheriff, the fully loaded cost of adding one deputy is \$85,166. The additional cost for these employees would be \$340,664. The Committee rounded this figure up to \$350,000. All the increased cost will be borne by taxpayers in the Johnson City Police district. The property tax rate in the police district will increase from \$87.77 per \$1,000 assessed in the first addendum to the plan, to \$98.69 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Adding these deputies to the Plan will reduce Johnson City property taxpayers' overall savings from 29.2 percent under the most likely option to 26.2 percent, compared to the property tax rate of 2009-10.

This recommendation addresses the concerns raised about the level of police protection in the village after dissolution, while demonstrating that significant financial savings are still achievable as a result of cutting administrative positions and consolidating detective functions with the Broome County Sheriff's department. The Committee has completed a thorough review of the plan taking into account all the comments and concerns received and concludes that no further changes are required before the citizens of Johnson City decide whether or not to dissolve the Village government on November 3, 2009.

Office of the Sheriff



David E. Harder
Sheriff

Gary F. O'Neill
Undersheriff

155 Lt. VanWinkle Drive
Binghamton, New York 13905

September 3, 2009

Mr. William Klish
Johnson City Dissolution Committee

Dear Bill,

This is a letter answering some of the questions and comments during the Johnson City Board meeting last night.

1. Question: How do we know that the police won't leave the Village to handle other Sheriff's calls?
 - Under the contract, the Officers are dedicated to stay within the taxing district. Only in cases of extreme emergency would these Officers be pulled. I don't see it happening anymore than it presently does.
2. Question: Can the Town of Union add more people to the minimum staffing?
 - The Town can add Officers to the minimum staffing. According to the Dissolution Plan, the Town could add up to four Officers and still save \$2,000,000.
3. Question: How many people are going to work on a shift?
 - We could look at a schedule where there are more Officers assigned during peak hours and not as many Officers at other times. Some of this could be done by utilizing overlapping shifts.
4. Question: The New York State Sheriff's Association are not experts. They are just a group of Sheriffs.
 - They are not just a group of Sheriffs, rather, an organization that assists Sheriffs throughout the State and have done so since 1936. They recognized that the Dissolution question has never been done before so they hired a consultant. Attached is the resume of the consultant that shows he is qualified to be an expert in the Law Enforcement field.
5. Question: I already pay county tax for the Sheriff's services. Why can't that cover this cost?
 - The County costs that you pay covers all services of the Sheriff; Highway Patrol, Corrections, and the Civil Division. The Road Patrol Deputies would be back up to the Enhanced Police covered in this Plan. The Police taxing District would have Deputies just to serve in that area.
6. Question: If a new Sheriff gets elected, would he continue the contract?
 - Yes, the new Sheriff would have to honor the contract. Numerous sheriffs throughout the state presently have contracts for law enforcement in their counties.

7. Question: Would the response time to calls change?
 - The response time should be the same as they will be responding from the same areas in the Village as the JCPD does now. The Plan states that they will be working from the George Korutz Justice Building.
8. Question: New York State told the Sheriff that he had to hire 21 more Deputies
 - Lets not confuse Correction Officers with Road Deputies. The State Commission of Correction did a staffing analysis and stated that the County needed 21 additional Correction Officers. The County gave us three. This does not affect the Dissolution Plan at all, it is a separate issue.
9. Question: Rehiring of JC Officers laid off
 - This is governed by New York State Civil Service. These Officers go on a Preferred List. Any hiring of Patrol Deputies has to come off of this list. You will get these same Officers back.
- 10 Question: You don't know how to patrol urban areas.
 - I don't agree with this question as we patrol heavily populated areas of the county now. Besides this fact you are getting the same Officers that patrol your Village now. The Undersheriff worked for the Village of Endicott for 29 years; the last ten years as the Chief.
- 11 Question: How can we increase the amount of Deputies in the Police taxing district?
 - The Town of Union Board would make this decision.
12. Question: How would the reduction in staff be handled?
 - The reduction of positions in the Johnson City Police Department would be filled by supervisors or other personnel from the Sheriff's Office that already have similar positions.

I hope this answers the questions and concerns raised by the residents at the Johnson City Board Meeting.

Sincerely,



David E. Harder
Sheriff

Hudson Valley Professional Services

Law Enforcement Expert Review and Testimony
Professional Hearing Officer Services
Public Speaking, Presentations, Instructional Programs and Consultation



Phone: (518) 798-9607
E-mail: info@hudsonpros.com

Larry J. Cleveland Curriculum Vitae

Education

Associate in Applied Science, Police Science, 1973 - Adirondack Community College, 640 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.

Associate in Applied Science, Mortuary Science, 2008 - Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

Bachelor of Science, Sociology (Criminal Justice), 1975 - The College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420.

Master of Arts, Administration and Leadership, 1989 - Plattsburgh State University, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. CGPA 3.833. Courses included Public Speaking, Personnel Administration, Public Relations, Business Administration and Leadership Research.

Law Enforcement Employment & Experience

Lake George Police Department - Village Hall, Lake George, NY 12845

June 1973 to May 1976 - **Patrolman** (seasonal) - Responsible for providing police services by foot patrol in the Village of Lake George during summer tourist seasons.

Queensbury Police Department - Queensbury, New York 12804

May 1976 to June 1980 - **Patrolman** - Responsible for police patrol in the Town of Queensbury, including the arrest and apprehension of law violators, traffic enforcement, and responding to calls for police service from the general public.

June 1980 to December 1982 - **Sergeant** - Responsible for the supervision of police patrols during eight-hour shifts of duty, in addition to performing various administrative duties associated with personnel management.

Warren County Sheriff's Office - 1400 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845

January 1983 to April 1987 - **Patrol Officer** - Responsible for police patrol in the County of Warren, including the arrest and apprehension of law violators, traffic enforcement, and responding to calls for police service from the general public.

April 1987 to December 1989 - **Administrative Sergeant** - Responsible for administrative tasks associated with the road patrol, including scheduling, performance and evaluation, training and supervision of police details providing public safety services at major public events.

January 1990 to December 1990 - **Lieutenant** - Responsible for the Patrol Division of the sheriff's office, including the direct supervision of all patrol sergeants and the general supervision of all patrol officers and criminal investigators.

January 1991 to July 1994 - **Major** - Designated third-in-command of all divisions and members of the sheriff's office, including the Correction, Patrol, Communications, Investigation and Civil Divisions. Responsibilities included the conducting and or supervision of all disciplinary action investigations, recruiting and hiring staff, and the development of a complete set of written rules and regulations for the office.

July 1994 to May 1999 - **Undersheriff** - Designated second-in-command of all divisions and members of the sheriff's office, a force of approximately 120 sworn and civilian staff. Served as accreditation manager with responsibility for ensuring compliance with New York State accreditation standards in law enforcement and corrections. Investigated complaints regarding activities of the sheriff's office; managed and coordinated principal events and major projects; supervised disciplinary action investigations and dispositions; ensured compliance with rules, regulations and directives; authored all written policy and procedures; and served as the law enforcement division commander.

May 1999 to December 2007 - **Sheriff** - Served as the chief law enforcement officer of Warren County with a staff of 220+ members. Responsible for providing law enforcement, emergency communications, correctional services and the sheriff's civil office services pursuant to the New York State Constitution and applicable statutory law.

Life Work Experiences

- 1992 to 1996 - Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, NY. Adjunct faculty in the Criminal Justice associates degree program. Instruction included courses in Criminal Law, Police Science Administration and Introduction to Police Science.
- April 1998 to Present - Northway Self Storage, LLC, co-owner and operator of a multi-unit self storage facility located in Queensbury, New York.
- 2007 to Present - Hudson Valley Professional Services, owner. Consultation services, accreditation programs, hearing officer services, expert testimony, and agency reviews.
- 2006 - The College at Plattsburgh, Extension Program at ACC, Queensbury, NY. Adjunct faculty in the Criminal Justice bachelor's degree program.
- 2007 - The College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY. Adjunct faculty in the Police Science bachelor's degree program.

- 2008 - Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY. Adjunct faculty in the Mortuary Science associate's degree program.
- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Certified Master Police Instructor and Instructor Evaluator. Conducted numerous evaluations of instructional techniques used by police instructors in a variety of contemporary law enforcement topics and courses of instruction.

Professional Training and Memberships

Completed numerous in-service training and education programs throughout public safety career, including but not limited to:

- Course in Police Supervision
- Instructor Development
- Media Relations
- Executive Development
- Freedom of Information Law
- Police Personnel Management
- Disciplinary Action Investigations

Former member of numerous law enforcement related professional organizations throughout public safety career, including:

- New York State Zone 5 Regional Training Academy Executive Board
- New York State Sheriff's Association Law Enforcement Services Committee
- Board of Cooperative Educational Services Criminal Justice Committee
- Warren County Traffic Safety Board
- New York State Sheriff's Association Accreditation Program Evaluator

Career Accomplishments, Papers, and Activities

- As chief executive officer, achieved accreditation in four areas of expertise in the Warren County Sheriff's Office: Law Enforcement, Corrections, Civil Office Operations, and Emergency Communications. One of only five counties in New York State to hold all four of these program awards.
- Designed and supervised the construction of a \$24 million public safety facility for Warren County, including one of the most technologically advanced 911 emergency communications centers in the state. The facility was opened in 2004, with the project coming in \$1 million under budget.
- Authored complete and detailed operational manuals for the three major divisions of the sheriff's office, including the Correction Division, Law Enforcement Division and the Administrative Services Division. Selected topics include employment selection and screening procedures, disciplinary action investigations and disposition, duties of members, traffic enforcement and safety, domestic violence, police vehicle pursuits, communications, prisoner transports, sexual harassment, use of physical force, firearms, and workplace violence. Each manual encompassed approximately 300 pages of agency rules, regulations and directives applicable to the provision of public safety services and specific duties of the respective division.
- Wrote comprehensive lesson plans for public safety courses of instruction, including Writing Accusatory Instruments, Public Speaking and Court Room Testimony, Boating Accident Investigations and Court Ordered Blood Tests. Used these lesson plans to provide in-service training to police officers throughout the Warren County region.

- Wrote detailed lesson plans for college courses of instruction at the undergraduate levels of study. Plans include PowerPoint presentations coupled with supplemental contemporaneous materials and handouts, as well as the formulation of examinations and requirements for research papers.
- Accomplished public speaker, having spoken before numerous civic and social groups, as well as assembled public safety professionals and administrators.
- Service as a professional hearing officer to evaluate testimony and evidence for the purposes of rendering decisions on municipal employee disciplinary action cases, including proceedings under New York State Civil Service Law, section 75.
- Receipt of six "good conduct letters" from the Warren County Sheriff's Office recognizing "distinguished or extraordinary acts or outstanding performance of duty", as well as numerous letters of appreciation and recognition from the public.
- Receipt of the 1991 Carl Draxler award for "exceptional career achievements and conscientious devotion to duty that have demonstrated a spirit of selfless public service".

References and Additional Information

Names and contact information for professional references, as well as additional information are available upon request.