

## Village of Rothbury Council Meeting August 16, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was opened at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall by President Scott Beishuizen.

Council members present were: Cindy Cruz, Vern Talmadge, Brandy Williams, Jim Fekken and Autumn Drake. Absent: Mike Harris.

Attending the meeting were: Village Treasurer Deb Murphy, Police Chief Tom Hasper, Sgt. Ethan Walker, Eric VanDop of Brickley Delong, Domingo Cruz, Cliff Cudney, Roy Strait, Natalie Cudney, Barbara Thompson, Judy Schultz, Bob Fulljames, Allison Scarborough of the Oceana County Press, Sonya Talmadge, Stephanie Tallquist, Patricia Lockhart, Donald Lockhart, Ed Goerbig, Craig Larson, Jarrod Barnes, Ann Tabor, Scott Tabor, Dan Zuniga, Jane Silvers, Chris Oracs, Ted and Denise Kurdziel, Anna Bayer, Valentin Garcia, Jeff Hall, Vern VandeLoog. Also in attendance were representatives for the Double JJ Resort including Norm and Matt Halbower and Jim Rose.

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented by the council.

Eric VanDop of Brickley Delong presented the council with the audit results for the fiscal year 2021-2022. During the

presentation, council was informed that the audit went well and was given an unqualified opinion with no findings.

Deb Murphy gave the monthly Treasurer's report.

Police Chief Hasper presented his monthly report of police activity.

Police Committee Chairman Jim Fekken discussed the August 11, 2022, meeting that the committee (consisting of Fekken and Cruz with Harris absent) had with the two officers to work on recommendations to Council for a new police services agreement with Grant Township. The committee is recommending an increase from \$27/hr. for police to \$35/hr. to cover expenses the Village incurs for wages, retirement plan, workman's comp. insurance, training, report writing, court time, etc. The committee further recommended an increase from \$1.10/mile to \$3.00/mile to help offset the cost of fuel, vehicle maintenance and insurance costs. The committee noted the fact that the police department drives on the unimproved roads of Lake Tahoe is a consideration when purchasing new vehicles.

The committee further recommended the contract be a three-year contract.

The committee also addressed several other items for consideration when the contract goes before the Grant Township Board including a clarification of duties regarding the Winston Speedway and off-duty calls. The committee recommended that when an officer is off-duty and is called in to handle a complaint in Grant Township, those calls should be billed at double time to Grant Township.

Sgt. Ethan Walker then expressed his concern of an informational paper titled "Contracted Police Services Budget

Considerations” which was used by the committee as an example of how the Oceana County Sheriff’s Department determines costs and writes contracts for services. Sgt. Walker was reminded by both committee members present that his concerns had been addressed and the document in question was for reference only. They stated that during the meeting he was told repeatedly that there were no plans to disband the police department.

Much discussion followed with members of the audience showing their support for the continuance of the Rothbury Police Department. There were questions asked regarding funding both with and without the Electric Forest Festival. There were audience members in favor of raising taxes to fund a full-time police department. Police Chief Hasper told the audience that he only works one day a week, but Sgt. Walker works four days giving the department a forty-hour work week. Chief Hasper also stated that he feels his police car needs replacement because it’s not safe to drive. The committee had discussed which police car to replace when funding becomes available but no decision was made.

Many members of the audience expressed their opinion that more data was necessary before deciding on a fee schedule to present to Grant Township. Concerns were expressed that no copy of the agreement was available for review. The Treasurer will work on a spread sheet of up to five years’ worth of actual expenses incurred by the police department while working in Grant Township.

Matt Halbower explained his purpose in putting a sign in front of the Ranch’s property on Winston Road. He is very concerned that the Council be aware of how important having a Village police department is to the resort because of slow response times from the Sheriff’s department. He was told by the

committee chair and the president that the disbanding of the police department was not under consideration at this time.

Brandy Williams reported on the Craft Fair scheduled for November 12, 2022.

Deb Murphy reported on the rental situation at the Rothbury Community Center.

Talmadge made a motion, seconded by Fekken to pay the monthly bills. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Talmadge made a motion to support the Rothbury Police Department and further review data for a new police services agreement with Grant Township, seconded by Beishuizen. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Sgt. Walker thanked the audience for their support.

Audience member Lisa Armstrong asked for more transparency of Village documents. It was pointed out that the audit information, minutes, agendas and the ordinance book with zoning information are all available on the Village website [villageofrothbury.org](http://villageofrothbury.org)

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:25 PM.

#### CLERK'S NOTE:

At the council meeting held on September 20, 2022 I was instructed by council to include the following in the August 2022 minutes.

During the discussion about police department budgeting it was pointed out by Chief Hasper that during the time between purchases of police cars the Village had purchased a new maintenance truck as well as a zero-turn mower for the maintenance department.

During the discussion about the origins of the document “Contracted Services Budget Considerations” President Beishuizen stated that he had asked for information from Sheriff Mast approximately 9 months ago. After further investigation, Sheriff Mast was able to date the request to January 2021.

During the meeting trustee Brandy Williams chastised trustee Jim Fekken for a disparaging remark he made before the meeting began. Trustee Fekken apologized to council and the police officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Witzke  
Rothbury Village Clerk