

### JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A special meeting of the Coleraine and Bovey City Councils was held on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Bovey City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Bovey Mayor Stein. Bovey Members present: Mayor Stein, Councilpersons Trbojevich, Meyer-Nail, and Lawson. It was noted that Councilperson Guyer would be arriving late. Present from Coleraine Council: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons Pollard, T. Troumbly, and Sertich. Councilperson Sobtzak was absent with notice. Also present were both Bovey Clerk DeGuisseppi and Police Chief Hussman and Coleraine Clerk Anderson and Interim Police Chief Grossell. Attorney Dimich was also present.

The meeting began with an overview provided by Coleraine Councilperson Sertich. A reminder was made that discussed from the start, neither city wanted to pay any more than they do now for police services. The challenge is to come up with a metric that is agreeable to both.

Bovey Councilperson Lawson stated that he felt that both cities are really struggling financially and described his vision that eventually the two cities would be under the same umbrella. He felt the best way to give the police departments support would be to combine. He felt that better retention and morale would be part of the result. He stated that the right people in the right place would make this work and felt that 'we' should make this work somehow.

Bovey Police Chief Hussman indicated they were not trying to raise the budget, just figure out a fair metric.

Coleraine Councilperson Sertich indicated that when current budgets were compared, the percentages came up to 53% - 47% and that Coleraine would like to stay as close to that as possible.

Bovey Mayor Stein stated that the response area needs to be considered.

Bovey Councilperson Lawson indicated that he wants input from the two Chiefs regarding law enforcement.

Bovey Councilperson Trbojevich inquired what the gain would be if it is joined?

Bovey Mayor Stein indicated that there were several possibilities in coming up with a metric. Three that he indicated were: by population, land mass, and budgets. He wanted everyone to state where they were at.

Coleraine Councilperson Sertich indicated: budgets.

Coleraine Mayor Nielsen indicated: budgets.

Councilperson Trbojevich stated she commended Mayor Stein on trying to accomplish this but doesn't see it happening. 'We' want to keep our officers. She again asked what the gain would be

should the departments be joined. She stated she sees the Joint Powers Agreement working just fine and why would the cities want to change that. The new Chiefs are doing what they need to do.

Bovey Mayor Stein stated he feels differently.

There was a lot of discussion between members of both Council on what a potential metric would be. Based on previous budget numbers that had been provided by the City Clerks, a Councilperson had provided a metric of 53% and 47%.

Bovey Clerk DeGuisseppi inquired on where the numbers came from and pointed out that the two Clerks really should compare the numbers line by line to make sure that the same things are either included or excluded so that we are comparing apples to apples and then compare the budgets for the metric. She includes retiree expenses in her figures. Coleraine Mayor Nielsen stated he thought this had already been directed.

DeGuisseppi also brought up that there would be an increase in cost as someone would need to do the administrative work (payroll, bills, reporting, etc.) as well as having an entirely separate system. There was some discussion on how that work could be accomplished and could it be done by one of the current clerks like how it is done with the fire department. Coleraine Clerk Anderson explained why it would be different, a guesstimate on the amount of hours per week, and that the work could be contracted but that city paid time could not be spent doing the work. It would need to be done very similar to how CBT works where the treasurer is contracted. That cost (with two employees) is \$1200 per month. It was noted that those costs would need to be added in.

Bovey Mayor Stein inquired whether or not the contracted person needed to be one of the city clerks. Many things need to be certified. Coleraine Clerk Anderson will check in with the POST board and see what she can find out.

Bovey Councilperson Guyer indicated that the metric needs to be figured out-- what is split and what isn't and that it gets set in stone --what criteria and what changes the criteria. This would need to be spelled out long term. He felt it creates a culture of more stability.

There was also discussion on how governing might work and that his vision is that a 'Police Commission' would only be an advisory board.

It was also noted that from the start that neither city was interested in paying any more than they currently do for a police department.

The two City Clerks were directed to get together to compare line items on the budgets and to provide to Councils prior to a next meeting. After some discussion, a meeting date of September 21<sup>st</sup> was set to allow time for the two clerks to get together.

The meeting was adjourned after approximately one hour.



Thomas Nielsen, Coleraine Mayor



Briana Anderson, Coleraine Clerk-Treasurer