

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
February 5, 2020
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday February 5, 2020.

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
Dawn Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Present
	Commissioner Seber	Present
	Commissioner Gilheany	Absent
	Commissioner Gotti	Present
	Commissioner McGuire	Present

Motion to accept the January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner McGuire Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker reminded everyone that the meetings have been moved to 6:00 p.m. and will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of every month. He went on to say that this particular meeting was changed because City Hall is closed on the second Wednesday of February. Mayor Baker announced the white water derby will be held on April 5, 2020 and the Community Center will have booths on the dock that day as well to raise money. Mayor Baker stated there is a Facebook page going around called "Mechanicville City Council News" in which he has fielded many questions referencing the page and he wanted the public to know it is not a City page but rather a private Facebook page.

Commissioner Seber stated water collection ended on January 31, 2020 and the re-levy was done with penalty on the tax bills earlier in the day. He added 82% of total amount due was collected on January 31, 2020 and last year 75% was collected in which he believes the 5% penalty may have made a difference. Commissioner Seber stated tax bills will go out by the end of the month and will be due by March 15, 2020. He added the Accounts Office will be open on Saturday March 7th and Saturday March 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m. for tax collection.

Commissioner Gotti stated they began aggressive tree trimming and apologized for any inconvenience of wood chips on properties. He added they will be back around to clean up the wood chips but are prioritizing on getting the trees down at this point. Commissioner Gotti

went on to say they will be aggressively cleaning the hill in Tallmadge Park near the wall. He also stated they are re-facing part of the water plant and cleaning out the drainage ditches that go to the waste water lagoon.

Commissioner McGuire stated the Office of Public Safety is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to participate in "A Leap of Happiness" in which you can purchase a paper frog for a minimum donation of one dollar (\$1) until February 29th. She added the frogs will be placed in business windows and is hoping a lot of the businesses will participate. Commissioner McGuire stated you can purchase frogs in the Public Safety Office in city hall and also you can purchase them at the Senior Center. She went on to say that all donations will be given to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Commissioner McGuire stated she had two (2) resolutions she wanted to discuss, one was resolution 07-2020. She stated that the Account Office has two (2) full-time employees and she doesn't understand why they would need a part-time employee to work up to twenty-nine (29) hours. She went on to say that previous to Commissioner Seber there was a part-time employee that worked twenty (20) hours per week without any issues or a need to increase the hours and was paid thirteen dollars (\$13) per hour. Commissioner McGuire asked that since either the Commissioner or the Deputy need to be in the office at all times and they are both full-time why a part-time employee needs to work twenty-nine (29) hours. She added that at a time the City is trying to save money this doesn't help. Commissioner McGuire stated she has no problem with whomever they hire but her concerns are the number of hours allowed to work and the pay rate. She added her clerk has worked for the City for twenty-nine (29) years and her pay rate is \$13.89, her previous clerk started at \$13 per hour, and a MPD part-time dispatcher is making \$15.81 per hour. She went on to say the dispatcher has worked there many years, and the responsibilities of a dispatcher are far greater than those of a clerk. Commissioner McGuire stated the second resolution that she has a problem with is the abolishing of the dispatch services. She went on to say the way the employees found out what their last day of employment would be is a disgrace, and added they found out when their work relationship with MPD would be over by reading the meeting agenda. She added that she found out the same way they did and stated that a Commissioner she should have been made aware that this process had been finalized. She stated there had been discussion in the past but no word that this was final was spoken to her nor was she asked any input. Commissioner McGuire stated that she has not seen a contract with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and she doesn't even know if there is one. She went on to say that there were discussions that the full-time dispatchers were going to be picked up by the Sheriff's Department and to her knowledge they have never received any communication of this. Commissioner McGuire stated she has never received any complaints about paying for dispatchers nor has she had anyone tell her they were unnecessary. She added she personally has no problem paying for it and prior to today she had no communication as to what it will entail if dispatch goes to the County. She went on to say she thinks the public should have been invited to a meeting with Chief Rabbitt to see how this is going to work and ease some concerns since no one in the community knows how this will directly affect them. Commissioner McGuire said that she did sit down with Chief Rabbitt to discuss her concerns and added she does not have a problem with the 911 system but she does have a problem with no one manning the station, but would be fine with not having someone in the station from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight and not having a midnight to 8 a.m. dispatcher. Commissioner McGuire stated she does not see what the rush is since the money has already been budgeted for the year and feels the resolution should be tabled to have meetings

with the community and address their concerns and explain exactly how this will be implemented.

Commissioner Mark Seber responded to Commissioner McGuire's concerns in reference to the hiring of a clerk in his office. He stated he has a budgeted amount of money to run his office and he plans on running it within his budget and how he staff's his office is up to him and if at the end of the year he request more money it will be up to the Council to either approve or not approve it. He went on to say as far as the \$15 per hour is concerned when the budget is passed a position master which is the salaries of all the employees is included in that and it shows Accounts Clerk at \$15 in which Commissioner McGuire voted on so he is not sure what the complaint is.

Commissioner McGuire stated she spoke with Commissioner Gilheany about that an explained she didn't agree with any person being paid that.

Commissioner Seber stated that she voted for it.

Commissioner McGuire stated she didn't vote specifically for that person.

Commissioner Seber stated the salary is on the position master so she technically voted for it. He went on to say that as far as saving money for the taxpayers that is disingenuous. Commissioner Seber stated that what they should have done to staff the office was there was a full-time clerk in Accounts Office with spare time and his experience makes him believe the clerk in the Public Safety Office has some spare time and he suggested to her that they combine the two jobs and save the taxpayers \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year and since they are right across the hall from each other, and the phones could be forwarded he felt that would be the best way to handle it. He went on to say Commissioner McGuire said no to the suggestion so therefore he went out to hire someone.

Commissioner McGuire stated that her clerk has a lot of work to do and that Emilia doesn't even do payroll anymore.

Commissioner Seber stated Emilia is very busy.

Commissioner McGuire stated that Emilia doesn't do payroll anymore so she questioned as to why her clerk has to help him.

Commissioner Seber stated it was not a matter of helping him but rather taking one (1) job and making one (1) employee more productive and saving the taxpayers \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year.

Commissioner McGuire stated he has no idea what her clerk does and offered for him to go in and observe.

Commissioner Seber stated he took her word for it when she said no.

Commissioner McGuire stated he wants to save the City money by splitting her clerk but wants to hire someone for \$2.00 more an hour than any other clerk gets.

Commissioner Seber stated he is going to run and staff the way he feels is appropriate and within his budget.

Commissioner stated she is a taxpayer and has a right to question it.

Commissioner Seber stated he too is a taxpayer and as long as he lives within his budget there is no argument but if in November he is looking for more money than it can be argued.

Acting Chief Rabbitt gave a presentation on the abolishment of the dispatcher and some prepared question also in reference to this. These are attached to the meeting minutes along with the police department's end of the year report.

Mayor Baker asked the public if they had any questions in reference to Acting Chief Rabbitt's presentation.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street stated they are anticipating having administrative personnel from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and longer 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Acting Chief Rabbitt interrupted by saying that is not accurate because that discussion of staffing has not been had yet.

Kim Dunn went on to say that assuming that is what happens what is the reason behind it. She asked that he was approached several months ago and is wondering when that was.

Mayor Baker stated this is something that has been in progress since Chief Waldron was here.

Kim Dunn stated that she is asking because it was said several months and it was never brought up to her.

Mayor Baker stated she was aware but is not getting into that.

Kim Dunn asked if this is a monetary thing and how much would be saved.

Mayor Baker stated he does not have the figures but it is not about money it is about continuity and instead of someone calling 664-7383 and then having to be switched somewhere else. He explained there was an issue over the summer where someone passed out and called our PD and were directed that they needed to hang up and call 911. Mayor Baker stated that is a delay and was not going to have that anymore.

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked if they had the exact cost savings yet.

Mayor Baker stated they do not have the cost savings yet.

Dave Hicks asked if there will be a contract with Saratoga County.

Mayor Baker responded there would be a contract for them handling our dispatch.

Dave Hicks asked if the intention is to dissolve the Mechanicville Police Department next.

Mayor Baker said absolutely not.

Olga Prevo of 14 Tallmadge Place asked if there will be officers laid off.

Acting Chief Rabbitt said there will not be.

Olga Prevo asked if it is a change that is welcomed by his team.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated this is not being forced upon them if that is what is being asked.

Public Comment:

Dave Hicks 241 First Avenue asked when the contractor was going to audit the energy use in the City.

Mayor Baker stated they are working on it.

Dave Hicks asked what is going to be done to avoid First Avenue being flooded and also stated roads have been paved but the potholes are ramped. Dave also asked if they know who owns the Saratoga Avenue overpass.

Mayor Baker stated the City still owns it.

Commissioner Gotti stated he agree there are potholes everywhere and they are working to get to them as best as they can.

Dave Hicks asked Commissioner Gotti if there is a plan on how they will divert the water from coming down First Avenue.

Commissioner Gotti stated it is something he is thinking and discussing about possibly changing the elevation to divert the water one way or another by paving the street differently. He went on to say there are different options on the table but nothing is locked in yet.

Dave Hicks reminded Commissioner Gotti that if he puts a speed bump and raise it up six (6) or eight (8) inches it will keep it running down Central Avenue.

Commissioner Gotti stated he does not disagree with him on that but is concerned about diverting water to a decaying infrastructure and create a bigger problem in the future. He went on to say that he is looking into purchasing a camera to look into the lines.

Dave Hicks stated there is water issue on Central Avenue in front of McDonalds and he wants to know what is stopping Commissioner Gotti from putting a four (4) inch groove next to the curb to let the water run back out to the drain.

Commissioner Gotti stated that would create more erosion.

Dave Hicks stated that when it gets eight (8) to ten (10) feet of water across the road and starts to freeze it is a problem.

Commissioner Gotti stated he doesn't disagree but has not seen it that intense.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street asked if after passing resolution 05-2020 to hire the Chairperson for Civil Service they will be filling the vacant third position.

Mayor Baker stated he will be filling that position once this one is approved.

Kim Dunn stated resolution 06-2020 reads "authorized to initiate whatever actions may be necessary" and she was hoping to get that better defined.

Mayor Baker stated it is just that it is not in writing yet but there is no charge for it.

Kim Dunn asked if that is indefinitely.

Mayor Baker stated that he can't predict what will happen in ten (10) years but right now there is no charge for it and the County can't tell them what will happen ten (10) years from now.

Kim Dunn asked if in reference to resolution 09-2020 for the eldercare transportation, how often it is utilized and if there is a report stating this to support the seven thousand dollar (\$7,000) fee.

Mayor Baker stated a report used to be given to the Public Safety Office.

Commissioner McGuire stated she has not received a report since she has been in office but she recently asked for a report from September to December. She went on to say she can't say offhand how many people used the van but she can easily get a report.

Kim Dunn stated she was wondering if we could promote it better since we are paying to use it.

Commissioner McGuire stated there is not much said about it and she is not sure people know it is there but it could greatly benefit some.

Commissioner Gotti asked if there was any literature on it.

Commissioner McGuire stated that before she came into office she hadn't seen anything about it anywhere but there are a lot of people who use it so they know. Commissioner McGuire stated the log she received from September to December had quite a few names on it and was roughly

four (4) to five (5) pages long with about twenty (20) names per page but not sure they were all Mechanicville people.

Mayor Baker stated he remembers that in the past the report that was given was Mechanicville people but sometimes the same person was listed several times on the same page.

Tom Mahoney of The Express asked why Mechanicville doesn't do the transportation instead of contracting out with Stillwater.

Mayor Baker stated it was something that was done was they first bought the van. He added that if it is something Commissioner McGuire wanted to take on she could do that but he things economically it is the best way to do it.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was something on the website about the transportation.

Dawn Dawson of Saratoga Avenue commented that Stillwater has gone through the County successfully for dispatch for over ten (10) years with no reported issues, no response time issues, and deficits in service. She went on to say that she feels it is a positive more forward for our City. Dawn stated there is a ton of furniture that is left on the side of the streets and she knows Commissioner Gotti has publically posted that it will no longer be picked up by the City she asked if there was any other was to put out a public announcement for homeowners, landlords, and tenants regarding this.

Commissioner Gotti stated they have been contacting taking pictures of the violation and contacting Jim Herkel (Code Enforcement Officer). He went on to say that before a letter of violation is sent out he has he guys put a letter on the door letting them know this will not be picked up and the best course of action to get rid of the stuff. He added if that doesn't work and a violation isn't productive then they are fined.

Dawn Dawson stated that she has had many people commenting on their Facebook page about members of the MPD and MFD constantly speeding through the City in their personal vehicles causing several near miss accidents and several traffic violations being disobeyed. She went on to say that she looked up the law and members of the MPD and MFD have to follow New York State traffic safety laws while in their personal vehicles and added that members are not following this. She went on to say that the City is one square mile and understands they are going to emergency calls but they need to slow down. Dawn went on to say that she was disgusted with how a senior citizen that spoke at the last meeting in reference to the City van was treated. She added that the name calling, personal and public comments, attacks and posts by members of the City Council about and against a City resident are vile and disturbing. Dawn added it is below their authority of being a public official and needs to stop immediately along with publically yelling and reprimanding a resident.

Kate Button of Grand Street asked for clarification on how we know the dispatcher contract will have no cost if there is no draft provided with the resolution.

Mayor Baker stated he spoke with the Sheriff and was reassured.

Kate Button asked if the other jurisdictions that were on the hand out from Actin Chief Rabbitt have been contacted to see if it has worked well for them.

Mayor Baker stated it is working well for them.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated that part of the process was for him to go to the jurisdiction that made the change and the most recent one was Waterford so he went and spoke with them in detail. He went on to say he walked away from there knowing they were happy with the service, and of course they had some concerns. He went on to say they were disappointed when the station didn't have 24 presence at the station. He added the communication between the County and them has been good. He gave an example: if right now you call 911 from your cellphone for whatever the emergency may be, Saratoga County Sheriff Department is going to answer the call, they in turn are going to call our dispatcher by radio communication or phone while you are still on the phone giving them information. They will relay the information you are giving them to our dispatcher in which then our dispatcher in turn going to take that information and relay it to our Officer in the car. If the responding Officer has a question they will need to contact our dispatcher who will then have to contact the Saratoga County dispatcher to get the answer and they will then have to relay it back. Acting Chief Rabbitt stated one of the things this will do is streamline this communication. He added the other reason this is being proposed is because having trained Police Officers work the desk is outdated and extremely expensive, he stated they need to be on the streets working.

Bill Claydon of Underwood Avenue asked Commissioner Gotti asked what the Real Estate projects where that are going on up near the City Garage.

Commissioner Gotti stated that John Pickett is doing building up there.

Bill Claydon asked if the project near the XO tower was his also.

Commissioner Gotti stated that was also a project by John Pickett.

Mayor Baker stated both projects will be places of business. He went on to say the project in the back will be John Pickett's place of business and will be operating out of there and the other is being built for someone else but has not gone to zoning and planning yet it is in the preliminary stages.

Bill Claydon asked what Mechanicville has in their cash reserve fund.

Mayor Baker stated that he could check with Commissioner Gilheany and she will have that answer for him.

Bill Claydon asked if there was a person set to be hired for the position of assistant clerk in the Accounts Office.

Commissioner Seber stated if the resolution were to be passed there is.

Bill Claydon asked what the criterion was for hiring this person.

Commissioner Seber stated office skills, a decent personality and be able to work with the public, basic office skills.

Bill Claydon asked if there was any nepotism and if there was a nepotism clause in Mechanicville.

Mayor Baker stated there is no nepotism.

Commissioner Seber stated he had a hard time finding someone because the job is part-time.

Bill Claydon asked when the Central Avenue project would be picking up again.

Commissioner Gotti stated they would be meeting this week to discuss when they will be digging.

Bill Claydon asked if Commissioner Gotti was at full staff.

Commissioner Gotti stated he is getting there.

Bill Claydon asked if it was safe to say there will be ads in The Express.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has an abundance of applications on file now.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 05-2020: DawnMarie Robens Chairperson Mechanicville Civil Service

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 06-2020: Abolishment of "Desk Officer"/"Dispatcher"

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 3 NAYS: 1

Nay: Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 07-2020 Joyce Gorman Part-Time Clerk Accounts Office

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 3 NAYS: 1

Nay: Commissioner McGuire who stated her vote has nothing to do with who is being hired and she is voting no because of the pay rate and hours being allowed to work.

RESOLUTION 08-2020 Purple Heart Community

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 09-2020 Stillwater Area Community Center Eldercare
Transportation

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 10-2020 Contract 4B SCWA Award Spring Electric

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 11-2020 Contract 4A SCWA Anjo

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 12-2020 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Baker stated the City will be looking to interview for a new City Attorney. He added he has been and will continue to talk with Honeywell Law Firm who graciously stepped in to help the City to get through the time the City was without an Attorney. Mayor Baker stated they will be getting the information out, hopefully receiving applications and interviewing for the position. He thanked Honeywell Law Firm on stepping in to help us and reiterated having to hire an outside firm is no reflection on the Honeywell Firm.

Commissioner McGuire asked if they needed to hire someone within Saratoga County.

Mayor Baker stated they did need to stay within Saratoga County.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 6:53 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Executive Session Began: 6:55 P.M.

Executive Session Ended: 7:50 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 P. M.

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

2019 Yearly Report

January 2019 - December 2019



Staffing

Police Officers	Desk Officers	Vacancies
Full Time Police Officers 8	Full Time Desk Officers 2	Full Time Police Officers 2
Part-Time Police Officers 8	Part-Time Desk Officers 3	Full Time Desk Officer 1

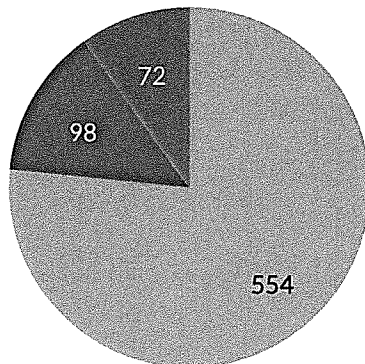
CALLS FOR SERVICE DWI Arrests

4585**89**

Domestic Incidents Traffic Tickets

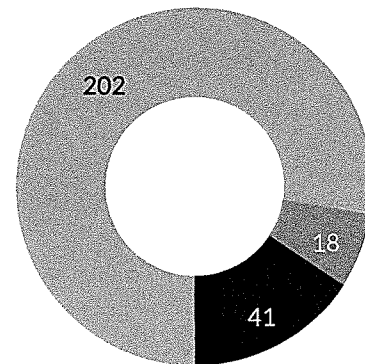
224**1493**

TOTAL ARRESTS 724



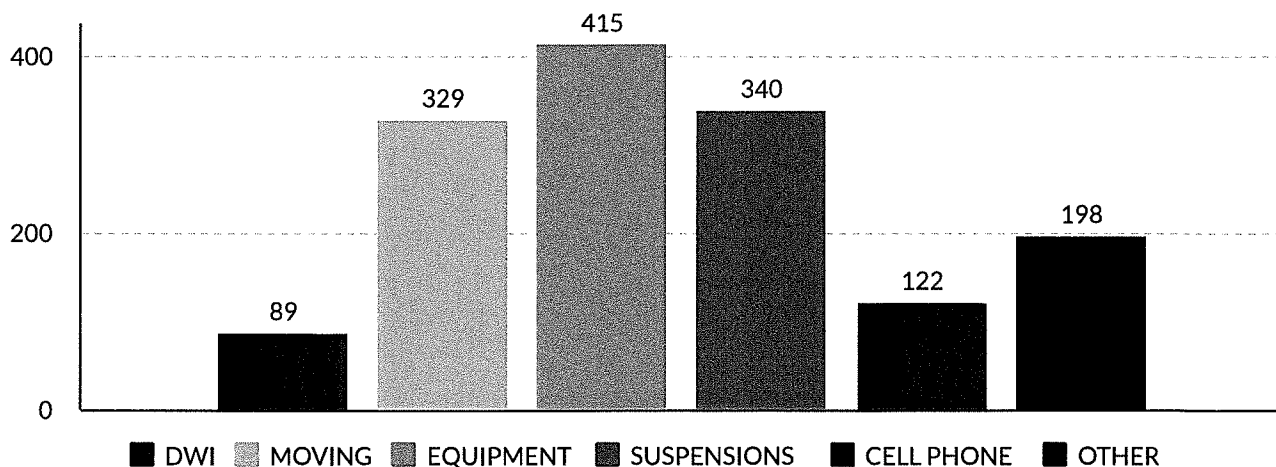
Misdemeanor (76.52%)
 Violation (13.54%)
 Felony (9.94%)

TOTAL TRAFFIC CRASHES 230



PROPERTY DAMAGE (77.39%)
 PERSONAL INJURY (6.9%)
 HIT AND RUN (15.71%)

TOTAL TRAFFIC TICKETS 1493



Mechanicville Fire Department

36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118
Tel: (518) 664-6121 Fax: (518) 664-6123

**Chief
Matthew Dunn**

**Deputy Chief
Alexander Dunn**

**Assistant Chief
John Dunn**

February 2, 2020

January 2020 Chief's Report

Alarms YTD- 75

City Alarms – 68	Mutual Aid -7
EMS-53	
Fire Alarm-7	
Hazardous Condition – 3	
MVA – 5	
Carbon Monoxide – 2	
Rescue - 1	
Electrical Problem – 2	
Open Burn -1	
Traffic Control -1	
Smoke Condition - 1	

Month Total -75

Fire- 23 EMS-52

Training

4 Drills

William J Rabbitt
Acting Chief

lt.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov

Alex Dunn

Patrol Sergeant

alex.dunn@mechanicvilleny.gov

MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 N MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118



February 5, 2020

Several months ago, I was tasked by Mayor Baker to explore the option of having the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office assume dispatching services for the Mechanicville Police Department. As a part of that process, I met with members of the Sheriff's Office, including the Director of Communications Steve Gordon, Undersheriff Rick Castle, and Commissioner of Emergency Services for Saratoga County, Carl Zielman. Through diligent work by all involved, we have developed a comprehensive plan to ensure a smooth transition to county dispatch should the City Council decide to proceed with that option. Also, should the City Council choose to have Saratoga County provide dispatch services, there will be other public meetings to address any concerns and answer any questions before its implementation.

Let me preface this by saying that our current dispatchers, often referred to as the first, first responders, are dedicated, professional employees who provide excellent services to the citizens of Mechanicville. Any decision to move dispatching services to the Saratoga County Sheriff's should not be seen as a reflection of the quality of their service. They have been a tremendous asset to our department.

For years the Mechanicville Police Department has employed desk officers/dispatchers who, in addition to completing many administrative tasks, perform their primary duty of answering emergency/non-emergency phone calls and, in turn, dispatch those calls to police, fire, and EMS units. At one time, they dispatched the John Ahearn Rescue Squad (Mechanicville's old ambulance service), Stillwater Ambulance, Mechanicville Fire Department, and of course, the Mechanicville Police Department. In the years that followed, though, John Ahearn Rescue closed, Stillwater Ambulance changed to County dispatch, and just recently, Mechanicville Fire Department moved to County dispatch as well.

William J Rabbitt
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MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Additionally, the technology/infrastructure needed to continue answering 911 calls became so expensive that those functions were transferred to the Sheriff's Office years ago as well. We do not and have not answered 911 phone calls here at the police department for years. All 911 calls are routed to the Sheriff's office automatically, where specially trained desk officers process the calls. That 911 information is then sent to our dispatcher, either by radio transmission or phone call, where it is then dispatched to our units. The move to Sheriff's dispatch would remove our dispatcher from the process, and the units in the field would receive the call directly from Saratoga County.

Under this system, the Sheriff's dispatch would answer all non-emergency calls as well, and the same process would follow. They would receive the information and dispatch our units to calls for service. If someone wanted to talk to an MPD officer directly, the officer would be dispatched to their location or, the phone call would be re-routed to the MPD station.

While no decision has been reached about staffing the station lobby/desk, it would be my recommendation that it be staffed at a minimum, during normal business hours and only by administrative personnel. This would free up police officers to work patrol, where they are needed, instead of desk duty.

This is sensitive for me as it affects colleagues of mine who I have worked with for years and developed good friendships with. Should the City Council decide to go to the Sheriff's dispatch, I will continue to support our dispatchers in any way that I can during this transition.

William J Rabbitt
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MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 N MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118



Will officers still patrol our streets and answer calls 24/7?

Yes. Nothing will change about police patrol or response. If a citizen requests a police response in Mechanicville, a Police Officer will respond as they currently do. In fact, police officers have been backfilling for desk officers and average ten shifts per week on desk duty. Having the Sheriff's office handle dispatching duties will free up officers to patrol the streets.

If my call is answered by the Sheriff's dispatch, will it slow down response times?

No. Response times will remain the same and, in some circumstances, may improve.

Who will answer the phone when I call 911?

We do not and have not answered 911 phone calls here at the police department for years. All 911 calls are automatically routed to the Sheriff's office, where desk officers answer them.

Who currently dispatches the Mechanicville Fire Department?

Saratoga County Dispatch currently dispatches the MFD and has since January 2020.

Are there advantages to consolidating dispatch other than saving money?

Yes. This move will allow for radio communication interoperability with other local agencies. In other words, our officers will utilize the same radios and frequencies as nearly every other agency in the county, allowing them to communicate with one another. For example, should we need assistance from other agencies during a serious incident, we will be able to communicate directly with those responding.

Who will answer the phone when I call the non-emergency number (518-664-7383)?

Sheriff's dispatch would answer all non-emergency calls. They would receive the information and directly dispatch one of our units to calls for service.

William J Rabbitt
Acting Chief
lt.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov

Alex Dunn
Patrol Sergeant
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MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 N MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118



What if I want to talk to an MPD officer?

If someone wanted to talk to an MPD officer, they should call our non-emergency number directly, and the Sheriff's dispatch will transfer the call to the MPD station.

What if I want to request paperwork, make a report, or speak to an officer at the station?

We will be working with the City to optimize station staffing levels to serve the needs of our walk-in traffic best. We anticipate having administrative personnel to perform administrative functions and greet people that come to the station during regular business hours.

Who will assist me at the Police front counter outside the established business hours?

Our lobby will remain unlocked, and there will be a phone available that will connect to dispatch automatically. From there, an officer will be sent to the station.

Have other local communities consolidated services with Sheriff's dispatch?

Yes. Numerous other local police departments have consolidated their dispatching services with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office. This includes Ballston Spa PD and, most recently, Waterford PD.

How will the dispatchers know our community if they do not work here?

Again, the Sheriff's Office has already been answering Mechanicville's 911 calls for years and then relaying the information to us.

What will be the most visible change at the Police Department?

The front desk will not be staffed 24/7.

CITY OF MECHANICVILLE
COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS
36 NORTH MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NEW YORK 12118

COMMISSIONER C.MARK SEBER
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER EMILIA FOARD
PH: 518-664-9884 FAX: 518-664-7955

TO: C. Mark Seber

DATE: 02/05/20

SUB: **WATER COLLECTION COMPARISON**

FROM: Emilia J Foard

October '19 Water Warrant: \$ 378,711.15

Collection Total as of 02/05/20: \$ 310,737.55

% of Water Warrant Collected: 82.05%

October '18 Water Warrant: \$ 381,774.35

Collection Total as of 10/31/15: \$ 286,770.20

% of Water Warrant Collected: 75.12%