

Town of Dublin Public Hearing-Police Department Training Facility Tuesday, June 20, 2023

In attendance: Select Board Members, Carole Monroe-Chair, Susan Peters and Chris Raymond. Also present were Dublin's Police Chief, Tim Suokko and many area residents. (sign-in list is attached to these minutes)

CALL TO ORDER: Carole Monroe called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm after the meeting had to be moved outside due to the large number of attendees. She began the meeting by thanking everyone for their interest in the police department's proposal. She then read a list of "Rules of Engagement".

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION: Chief Suokko gave an uninterrupted Power-Point presentation outlining why the facility is important, where it would be located and how the facility would be used.

A question and answer session followed in which residents were able to ask direct questions to Chief Suokko.

Residents were then encouraged to state their opinions. Carole read names of individuals that had written, during the sign-in, that they wished to speak. She asked individuals to step forward to the microphone, state their name and address and present their thoughts within a 3- minute time limit. Following the completion of these names, Carole offered an opportunity to speak to all residents asking that they first raise their hand to be recognized. When all had their say, Carole offered the opportunity to speak to all other attendees since there were several non-residents attending, but had an interest in the outcome of the proposal either by owning property in Town or living nearby in Harrisville.

SUMMARY: In general, the Town fully supports the police department and understands the need for continual training/education, especially with the use of firearms. They understand that the world is changing and, unfortunately, violence is more prevalent. The main concern was that the suggested location is in a more densely populated area and people were concerned about the noise level, the possibility of stray bullets and the impact on the environment as well as property values. Other site locations and training opportunities were suggested by the residents. It was suggested that the community continue to work together to find a mutually agreeable solution that benefits the Town and the greater population. Several people also spoke in support of the Police Department having a training area.

Molly Pinney stated that it was not right for a three-member Board to make the final decision on this issue especially because this facility was not a consideration during the last

election and no member had run their campaign either for or against this issue. Carole assured the crowd that this was a fact-finding hearing and at this point in time, that further discussion will ensue. Molly Pinney told the Board that she was holding a petition with one hundred signatures stating that this Board not make a final decision, but to hold a Special Meeting to let the residents vote. After finding that it will cost the town several thousands of dollars to hold a Special Meeting, Molly said that she would consider whether to file the petition. Town legal counsel will be consulted to see if there are any implications of a petition being circulated but not submitted.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Carole adjourned the Public Hearing Meeting at 6:47pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katherine M. Fuller and Pamela J. Cox
Canala Manua (Chair)
Carole Monroe (Chair)
Susan Peters
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Chris Raymond

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