

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

2039

Minutes of Waterville Township Special Trustees'

Meeting

Form 6101

BARRETT BROTHERS

Held at 9:30 a.m. at the Waterville Township Hall on June 12, 2015

OFFICIALS:

Chairman A. Leslie Disher - Present
 Vice-Chairman Karen M. Schneider - Present
 Trustee Kyle J. Hertzfeld - Present
 Police Chief Richard E. Bingham - Present
 Fiscal Officer Kay Ann Robertson - Present

GUESTS:

Officer Daniel M. Stuber, Waterville Township Police Department
 Devin Stuber, 123 Sand Ridge Road, Bowling Green, Ohio
 Whitehouse Police Chief Mark McDonough, 6925 Providence Street
 Whitehouse Deputy Chief Todd Kiczler, 6925 Providence Street
 Karen Berger, Reporter for "The Mirror", Maumee, Ohio
 Tom and Kathy Schmidt, 5152 Wedgewood, Medina, Ohio

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Waterville Township Police Chief Richard Bingham introduced Tom and Kathy Schmidt of Medina, Ohio. The Schmidts own and operate a program called B.A.R.K. (Buckeye Area Regional K9) which would allow the township to obtain a dog and training free of charge. Mr. Schmidt differs in his approach in that he starts when the dogs are just puppies (6 weeks), while other K9 trainers start at 2-3 years of age. An officer gets the puppy (Belgian Malinois) at six weeks and the training begins immediately. They go back to Medina every week for training. The dog must be certified by OPATA yearly, so training is ongoing. It usually takes 12 to 13 months to get certified. If the dog stays healthy, they should be able to work 9 to 10 years. Currently, the Schmidts have 23 dogs working. The dog and training are free of charge and in return the Schmidts ask for a letter from our chief stating they have donated a dog worth \$12,000.00.

One of our officers would pick up the puppy at 6 weeks of age. The puppy would live with the officer and would begin riding with him on patrol immediately. It is important to get him socialized, get him used to the car, noise of sirens, etc. These are family dogs, when they are not working they are a member of the family. The dog would be working with one officer exclusively and not be passed around. If for some reason the township would no longer want the dog, it would go back to the Schmidts. There should be a litter available toward the end of the year.

The question was asked as to what type of vehicle is best suited to transport the dog and Mr. Schmidt recommended a SUV, either an Explorer or an Expedition. The township has a SUV on order for the first of the year so the timing is good. You can get a canine insert with a jump seat and it should have rear airconditioning. They also recommend a "hot & pop" which is an automatic door opener and much safer.

Chief Bingham said a downside could be the fact that an officer and the dog would need to make a weekly trip to Medina and train for a day. The first year they would have to train exclusively with Mr. Schmidt. Once the dog is certified (16 to 18 months) they would only have to train once a month. The primary expense is the travel and the vehicle. Once the dog is certified, Mr. Schmidt would come here and train the rest of the officers. If the dog is used correctly, they are a good tool. Not only would it be used for drugs but also to track. They train every week just in case there could be times when they did not see any action.

Kathy Schmidt recommended pet insurance. The vet in Whitehouse takes care of all of the Toledo K9 units. Some vets have written up bills for their expenses and the agencies have signed off for a tax deduction. Some area businesses may be willing to donate dog food.

Officer Dan Stuber and his wife were present because Dan may be the officer who gets to train the dog. Mr. Schmidt said Devin (wife) was more than welcome to travel with her husband to train or if she could not, then her husband could train her. The dog will know that when Dan is getting ready for work he will be going to work, also. At home, the dog will be a normal dog. This breed is very good with children if or when they start a family. If they travel, the dog can stay with them because it is a service dog. If shedding becomes a problem, there are supplements that can help that.

That concluded the presentation. Chief Bingham thanked Tom and Kathy Schmidt for the information and traveling all this way.

continued.....

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Continued:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Waterville Township Board of Trustees, Karen M. Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by A. Leslie Disher.

Motion Carried.

Adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Attest:



Trustees:



