

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF HERRIN, ILLINOIS HELD IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL ON  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.

Alderman Shoemake, Public Safety Chairman called the meeting to order. Those in attendance on behalf of the Committee were Alderman Shoemake, Alderman Kinley, and Alderman Miller. Others in attendance were Alderman Ahlgren, Mayor Frattini, Treasurer Goodwin, Chief Laird, Deputy Chief Loyd, Attorney Brewster and City Clerk Shelly Huggins. Alderman York arrived at 5:11 p.m.

Discuss Energy police activity in Herrin and letter we have received from Energy. Mayor Frattini stated that there have been ongoing issues regarding Energy Officers doing activity in Herrin for years even before my time. He witnessed two stops within a block radius. He stated it was aggravating. Chief Laird wrote a letter rescinding the previous ceremonial letter of cooperation. The opinion is with that letter that we are extending above and beyond state statute regarding police district. Chief Laird stated that is has been his feeling for some time that Energy has overstepped their bounds and went outside the spirit of what the statute is supposed to mean. They have taken it to another level. It was intended for them to come into our community and help. There have been several discussions with previous mayor and chiefs to get them to back off. We had received not so nice responses in the past. Chief Laird has spoken with Chief Ladd as well as Deputy Chief Loyd and Mayor Frattini for Energy to back off. It has been decided it wouldn't be beneficial to go and talk to Chief Ladd again. All council has received a copy of letter to Chief Laird from Chief Ladd in response to Chief Laird's letter of Friday evening. Where do we need to go from here? Chief Laird wants to have the backing of the mayor, committee and council. Alderman Miller stated that we need to sever our ties with them. If we allow this to continue we assume liability. He has had a lot of people complain about the situation. They would still be able to do the things listed by state statute but nothing further. Motivation behind Energy actions seems to be financially motivated. Energy is asking that they continue with the K-9 unit performing activities in Herrin. It is the consensus that we do not continue with that either. If they are doing activity in Herrin and we do not know about it, it could be a safety issue for the officers involved. Alderman Kinley stated that they use our dispatch and our frequencies. However, recently traffic stops are being made by Energy and not being called in. Chief Laird believes that Energy needs to call all of their Herrin activities through our dispatch. Attorney Brewster stated that if we continue dispatch for them, they would think that they have an in for doing what they want. An option maybe like we have with Johnston City, where we dispatch only 911 calls from beginning to end. Any other Johnston City calls are handled by Johnston City Officers solely. Chief Laird needs direction. We can work out details then. Alderman Kinley asked how often we think an Energy officer initiates stop/call and then calls Herrin for help. It happens on a regular basis. Mayor Frattini is concerned that they are doing traffic and drug details as well as using their own drug interdiction team. This seems to be about administrative fees and dollars. Energy feels there is too much money to be made and they don't want to stop. Herrin is a member of the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group. There has been times Energy's K-9 unit has interfered with drug issues. Energy is not a member of SIEG. As of now Energy is using a local ordinance of theirs charging administrative fees, if we sever ties they will not be able to use their local ordinance in our community. Treasurer Goodwin believes that the council and residents would be behind the decision to not allow Energy to continue as they are. Alderman Kinley stated that with K-9 there is heightened liability, as well as any activity they may be performing in our city limits.

Mayor Frattini needs to have a meeting with Energy's Village President. Attorney Brewster believes all response needs to be in writing and maybe we need to put it in there about K-9 unit only being in Herrin when requested by Herrin. Mayor Frattini believes it should be an all or nothing situation. Alderman Ahlgren asked for clarification on K-9 unit. Initially Mayor Frattini will speak with Energy Village President.

One other thing we need to consider is a couple of Energy Officers that have Herrin badges. They are part time officers.

We want to maintain mutual aid relationship with Energy.

Deputy Chief Loyd stated previously, whenever we have given them an inch they have taken a mile. Over twenty years ago, Energy didn't have a full time department at that time. The intent was for Herrin to help them out. It has morphed into way more than the original intentions.

Attorney Brewster believes the Chiefs of each town should take care of this situation, with the Mayor on standby if it can't get resolved. Deputy Loyd stated that it has been tried to take care of on the chief level previously and

didn't work. Chief Laird knows that what he conveys to Chief Ladd will get passed to our mayor and council but he isn't sure that Chief Ladd would notify his council. Alderman Shoemake believes that the chiefs and mayors should all meet together. Alderman Miller left at 5:43 p.m.

Chief Quinn will draft a letter that states that the K-9 unit is only to be used in Herrin if Herrin asks for it. We need to make sure Energy's council is aware of what is going on.

Issues happen for our dispatch whenever Energy puts on 8 cars doing traffic detail.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.