

TOWN OF BERTHOUD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2007  
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The Board of Trustees for the Town of Berthoud met for a special meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 in the Board Room of the Town Hall. Mayor Karspeck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Milan Karspeck  
Mayor Pro-Tem Don Ashcraft  
Trustee Louis Gervasi  
Trustee Michael Patrick  
Trustee Chase Sommars

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Peder Thorstensen  
Trustee Glen Buckingham

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator Jim White  
Police Chief Glenn Johnson  
Planning Technician Sue Bowles

Mayor Karspeck reported that one item had been added to the Special Meeting agenda. The Board will adjourn to an Executive Session regarding emergency dispatch services, and following that, the Board will come back and consider taking action on that item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashcraft moved to go into executive session regarding negotiations for dispatch service for the time needed. Second by Trustee Gervasi. All members voted YES.

The special meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

**CONSIDER CHANGE OF DISPATCH SERVICES IN 2008**

Administrator White reminded the Board that staff was instructed to pursue and consider dispatching alternatives since Larimer County Sheriff's Department, which had been providing dispatch services for the Town free of charge for years, had made the decision to begin charging Berthoud for those services. The initial price tag for these services was \$66,000.00. Administrator White had subsequently negotiated with Sheriff Jim Alderman to provide dispatch services to Berthoud at the reduced fee of \$40,000. Berthoud has, however, continued to explore another option with the City of Loveland and those figures have been provided to the Board in the form of a memo. Administrator White noted that this item will still be included in the budget, and staff would like a decision tonight, as the budget ordinances follow this discussion.

Chief Johnson went through the comparison of expenses for items such as computers for the vehicles, internet fees for the computers, pagers, IT services and other necessary items. He pointed out that he has not been able to ascertain what the costs would be for a records management system with Loveland, so the numbers that had been provided in the memo were incomplete. Chief Johnson estimated that those costs would run somewhere between \$10,000 to \$15,000, and concluded that for now it would be more beneficial from an economic sense to stay with Larimer County dispatch.

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There was significant discussion regarding the start up costs as well as the overall expenses that would be incurred if the Town switched to Loveland dispatch, however, Chief Johnson noted that using Loveland would most likely result in faster response times since 911 calls are currently routed through Loveland to Larimer County and then to Berthoud. If Loveland were used as the Town's dispatch center, it would eliminate that second step. He further noted that communication between Berthoud PD and the Berthoud Fire District would be enhanced due to the high frequency radios used by Loveland and the fire district.

Mayor Karspeck asked Chief Johnson, projecting out 5 years, and ignoring the cost implications, where do you want to go?

Chief Johnson said, with that scenario, it would make sense to go with Loveland dispatch. Everyone he's talked to who works with Loveland are very satisfied with them.

In response to Trustee Sommars' question whether the police department has looked at grants for funding, Chief Johnson said that the department has been scrambling with injured officers off and people leaving the department. They are hoping to be at full staff by January, and the intention is to then have someone start working on grant applications.

After significant discussion, the general consensus was that emergency response is not a place to exercise fiscal restraint. A placeholder has been set in the budget from the municipal fee for \$66,000, amended now to \$60,000, and the costs are coming in lower than that for both Larimer County dispatch and Loveland dispatch.

**Mayor Pro Tem Ashcraft moved to direct staff and the Police Chief to move towards adopting Loveland PD as the Town's dispatch service by stating the obvious of improving dispatch communications, and for moneys to be earmarked from the allocated number in the budget, and to aggressively have a dedicated staff member or officer to work towards grants to alleviate the impacts on the budget. Second by Trustee Patrick. All members voted YES.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Milan Karspeck, Mayor

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Sue Bowles, Planning Technician