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TOWN OF WARRENTON
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November 5, 2009 Public Safety Committee Minutes

The called November 5, 2009 meeting of the Town of Warrenton Board of Commissioners Committee on Public Safety was held at the Warrenton Town Hall.

Those present were:

Commissioner John Blalock
Commissioner Bobby Edmonds
Commissioner Mary Hunter

John Freeman, Town Administrator
Chief John Younts

Chief Younts requested this meeting to advise the committee of the status of the police car damaged in an accident on October 24, and to seek its recommendation to present to the Board of Commissioners at its next meeting. Younts reported that the damaged car is the 2005 Impala, and that the insurance adjuster was currently reporting it as repairable while the body shop owner said it should not be fixed. The adjuster had included removable equipment in the value as a basis for fixing it, but that in Younts' opinion that is unusual. He estimates that an insurance settlement would be approximately \$10,000 plus the amount to transfer equipment to a replacement vehicle. Younts said that the car had been wrecked by Officer Campbell who fell asleep. He has been a good officer and this is out of character for him

He presented several options, beginning with a new Ford Crown Vic from Sheehy Ford for \$22,700, prewired for police equipment. Used cars range from \$8,000-15,000 with 90,000-100,000 miles. One police car was offered on eBay with 57,000 miles but it had already been sold. The problem with used vehicles is the lack of warranty and likely repairs. In answer to Mr. Blalock's question, Younts explained that this vehicle was used by the reserve officers and would be the next vehicle replaced in the planned annual purchase of one new police car. It would then have been kept as a backup vehicle. Mr. Freeman distributed the loan forecast that had been included with the budget and said that if the entire amount of a new car was borrowed, the \$10,000 insurance settlement could be used as the first payment, and the forecast of payments would not change (suggested by Younts). Or the balance of a new vehicle could be borrowed to keep the Town's total loan amount less. While the total loan amount would still be within LGC guidelines Freeman said he would be proposing a replacement leaf truck and pick up truck for the Water Sewer department next year, which would add to the debt load if approved by the BOC.

Mr. Blalock asked about the status of the COPS grant application which could add two officers who would need vehicles. Younts said that the Town is still in the running, but the program is waiting for additional funding. If the grant were awarded, two additional vehicle might be required, or doubling up on one additional.

The Committee agreed to recommend that a loan be procured to purchase a new car to replace the damaged 05 Impala. The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freeman
Town Administrator