

July 8, 2008
Joint Meeting of Town Boards
7: 00 p.m.

Present: **Town of York:** Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Frank Rose Jr. and David Deuel

Town of Leicester: Supervisor Gary Moore, Council Members: Richard "Bud" Hamilton, Debra Logsdon, Felix Valentino and Richard Ellis

Others: Deputy Gene Chichester (Deputy with the Liv. Co. Sheriff's Department and current SRO for York Central School) and Major James Szczesniak (oversees road patrol for the Livingston County Sheriff's Department)

Supervisor Deming opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

PURPOSE

Supervisor Deming stated that the purpose of the joint meeting was to discuss in detail the York Central School Resource Officer position and its continued support from the Towns of Leicester and York. Mr. Deming expressed the need to have Deputy Chichester prepare a presentation for the Boards, allowing new members to fully understand his role and responsibilities at the school.

Deputy Chichester informed the Boards that York Central School implemented the School Resource Officer (SRO) position in February of 2002. Partnering in the costs of this program was the Towns of Leicester and York, Livingston County and York Central School. In addition to promoting positive objectives at the school, the Resource Officer is able to keep the lines of communication open with the students, facility and the community itself. Deputy Chichester strongly believes having a police presence at the school has deterred a great number of criminal activities from happening, and also provides a role model for the students.

Deputy Chichester outlined the numerous responsibilities and services provided by the SRO:

- Patrolling school grounds (which puts the students at ease knowing he is in the building)
- Enforcing school policies, investigates criminal cases and makes arrests as needed
- Communicates with school administration
- Supports extracurricular activities when requested (for security)
- Works as a liaison with many County agencies and others as well
- In the school community on a daily basis
- Works closely with school counselors & social workers to assist with everyday problems....encouraging students to stay in school
- Provides classroom instruction when requested (D.A.R.E. & DWI programs, in addition to other learning opportunities)
- Works closely with the Transportation Services

- Monitors the security system (cameras within the school)
- Applied for grant funding for upgrades to the current security system

Deputy Chichester explained to the Boards the importance of the training involved when dealing with students as opposed to adults. He believes that he is making a difference because the kids feel comfortable talking with him about their issues, which hopefully has made a positive impact on them.

Major Szczesniak also spoke about the importance of an SRO, and the positive data reflecting their presence in the community. Livonia Central and York Central Schools each have School Resource Officers in place outlining and following through with school procedures, which makes the process a smooth one. Major Szczesniak stated that this position is appropriately named because Deputy Chichester has many resources to pull from on any given issue.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

1) Supervisor Deming: “ Deputy Chichester can you give us an idea of some of the things you have prevented by being in the school district ? “

Response: “ There have been many situations I have been able to resolve over the years, but by walking the hallways I can hear most of the issues first hand in order to deal with. I was able to locate stolen money from the mimi- trip, and give parents a “heads up” regarding drug and alcohol related matters. I am also pleased to know I have had a hand in assisting students on the importance of an education and the need to remain in school.

2) Councilman Ellis: “ I would like to thank Deputy Chichester and Major Szczesniak for their presentation this evening, I have a new appreciation for the job Deputy Chichester does a York Central as the Resource Officer”.

3) Council Member Logsdon: “ Times are different from when we attended school, we did not need an SRO at that time, but he is certainly needed now”.

4) Supervisor Moore: “ Having elementary, middle school and highschool buildings completely connected allows for a higher chance of “trouble” to filter through each area of the facility, we are fortunate to have an SRO in place”.

5) Councilman Ellis: “ How is Deputy Chichester paid ?”

Response: “ Supervisor Deming stated that Deputy Chichester’s salary is split accordingly: 1/3 paid by Livingston County, 1/3 by York Central School and the remaining 1/3 between the Towns of York and Leicester”.

The Board members agreed that this meeting was very productive and look forward to scheduling more joint meetings in the future to discuss other shared services opportunities.

Supervisor Deming stated he will arrange a meeting between the Towns of Leicester and York and the York Central School Board as soon as it can be scheduled.

The joint meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk