



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ORION VILLAGE COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Conference Room

21 East Church Street

LAKE ORION, MI 48362

(248) 693-8391 ext. 102

I. Call to Order

The Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Special Meeting of the Lake Orion Village Council was called to order in the Council Conference Room located in the Village Hall at 21 East Church Street, Lake Orion, MI 48362 by President Jerry Narsh at 6:30 PM.

II. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Jerry Narsh	Village of Lake Orion	President	Present	
Teresa L Rutt	Village of Lake Orion	President Pro Tem	Present	
Carl Cyrowski	Village of Lake Orion	Council Member	Excused	
Stan Ford	Village of Lake Orion	Council Member	Present	
Michael Lamb	Village of Lake Orion	Council Member	Present	
Nancy Moshier	Village of Lake Orion	Council Member	Present	
Kenneth VanPortfliet	Village of Lake Orion	Council Member	Present	

STAFF PRESENT:

- Village Manager McClary
- Interim Police Chief Stanfield

Motion to: excuse Council Member Cyrowski from the November 22, 2023 special meeting.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Teresa L Rutt, President Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Jerry Narsh, President
AYES:	Narsh, Rutt, Ford, Lamb, Moshier, VanPortfliet
EXCUSED:	Carl Cyrowski

III. Statement by President or President Pro-Tem of Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the special meeting is to consider police department staffing and services.

IV. Public Comment

V. Items for Consideration

1. Police Department Services and Staffing

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jerry Narsh, President
SECONDER:	Teresa L Rutt, President Pro Tem
AYES:	Narsh, Rutt, Ford, Lamb, Moshier, VanPortfliet
EXCUSED:	Carl Cyrowski

RESOLVED: To authorize the Police Chief to work with the Michigan State Police, the Oakland County Sheriff, and Auburn Hills Police Department to arrange temporary police services up to 90 days, with the Chief to report back to Village Manager on the status.

Chief Stanfield reviewed the police department's current staffing situation. With the recent resignations of officers Loomis and Brown, the Chief is the only full-time officer left after December 2, 2023. There are four part time officers, but it is difficult to get the part-time officers to work. The Chief has advertised since August 1 for full time officer positions and only received eight applicants, interviewing three of those applicants in late September. Two of the interviews didn't work out. The Chief has received four recent applications and is starting background investigations. However, even with hiring new officers with little or no experience, it takes at least three months to train. Chief Stanfield presented the following options to address staffing shortages:

- Work out an arrangement with the Village of Oxford to share officers for midnight shifts
- Contract with Oakland County Sheriff
- Seek assistance from the Michigan State Police
- Dissolve the police department

Chief Stanfield stated that he has reached out to Oxford's chief, who indicated that their department, too, is short-staffed and cannot help. Chief Stanfield has not yet reached out to any other agencies, preferring instead to meet with council to discuss the situation first.

Council Member Moshier asked why officers are leaving.

Chief Stanfield stated that pay and benefits are the reason. Even Metamora is now paying \$30.00 per hour for part time officers. The Chief stated that Lake Orion provides no retiree health insurance and no pension.

Village Manager McClary stated that the village does provide a defined contribution retirement program for employees but phased out the defined benefit pension system.

President Narsh inquired as to whether the Chief has called the Michigan State Police. Chief Stanfield stated that he has not yet contacted them.

Council Member Moshier stated that Lake Orion residents want local police.

President Narsh suggested that Chief Stanfield consider doing the following: First, call the Michigan State Police at the Groveland Township Post to see if MSP can provide assistance. There is no cost for their assistance. Second, contact the Oakland County Sheriff to see if the village can contract with them for 90 days for midnight shifts only and two days during the week to cover when the Chief is off.

Council Member Lamb left the meeting at 6:55 PM and returned at 6:56 PM.

Council Member Van Portfliet suggested seeking temporary assistance from other agencies while, concurrently, working on the hiring of full-time officers. He asked if it is possible to talk to other area communities for staffing assistance.

Village Manager McClary stated that any contract for services would require approval from the Village Council, as the council is the only body authorized by charter to contract on behalf of the village.

Chief Stanfield stated that Village Council should consider allowing him to reduce the number of part time police officers and replace with a fifth full time officer to help hiring efforts, reduce overtime costs, and to provide more stability to the department.

Motion to: consider creating a fifth full time Police Officer position and reduce part time and overtime hours, with the Chief and Village Manager to bring a definitive cost proposal at the appropriate time.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jerry Narsh, President
SECONDER:	Kenneth VanPortfliet, Council Member
AYES:	Jerry Narsh, Teresa L Rutt, Stan Ford, Kenneth VanPortfliet
NAYS:	Michael Lamb, Nancy Moshier
EXCUSED:	Carl Cyrowski

VI. Adjournment

Motion to: adjourn the November 22, 2023 special meeting of the Lake Orion Village Council.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Lamb, Council Member
SECONDER:	Kenneth VanPortfliet, Council Member
AYES:	Narsh, Rutt, Ford, Lamb, Moshier, VanPortfliet
EXCUSED:	Carl Cyrowski

The special meeting of the Lake Orion Village Council adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Jerry Narsh
President

Susan C. Galeczka, CMC CMMC
Village Clerk

Sonja Stout
Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Date Approved: December 11, 2023, as presented.