

Police Proposals

*Why are we undertaking
this effort?*

The Wharton Police Contract

- We are satisfied with the level of police services provided by the Wharton Police Department.
- Our decision to review proposals and costs are *purely financial*.
- Any financial issues Mine Hill is experiencing are NOT Wharton's fault.
- The prior administration and council entered into this contract 2 different times, 2002 & 2007.
- Wharton has acted in good faith as our police department.

Our police contract costs.

The contract has a 5.25% increase compounded annually.

- 2003 - \$918,750.00
- 2004- \$964,688.00
- 2005- \$1,012,922.00
- 2006- \$1,063,568.00
- 2007- \$1,119,405.00
- 2008- \$1,178,174.00
- 2009- \$1,240,028.00
- 2011- \$1,305,130.00
- 2012- \$1,445,766.00
- 2013 - \$1,521,668.00
- 2014 - \$1,601,556.00
- 2015 - \$1,685,638.00
- 2016 - \$1,774,132.00

The 5¼% increase.

- The original contract from 2002 to 2006 was set at a 5% annual compound increase.
- Starting in 2007 the contract was extended until 2016.
- In 2007 an extra .25% was added to the original contract from 2007 to 2016.
- The former Mine Hill Council added this .25%, Wharton did not ask for it.

The current costs of the contract are unsustainable.

They have become a significant percentage of our tax levy and are growing too fast.

Our municipal budget for 2012
is \$4,395,659.

Our Municipal Levy for 2012 is
\$3,162,853.00.

For 2012, our Police costs are
\$1,445,766.00

45.71% of our tax levy.

Municipal Debt

Our municipal debt for 2012 is

\$2,391,313.00

Our municipal debt payments for 2012

were **\$613,246.00**

Resident share is **\$664.00/person** or

\$2,657/family of 4.

COLA

- Since 2002, The Social Security Administration Cost of Living adjustments have averaged 2.6% per year.
- New Jersey used to require an 8% pension contribution.
- That was changed to 28% contribution due to underfunding of the state pension.

Meetings with Wharton

We have met with Wharton and the police union a total of 5 different times.

- 1st week of July
- August 19th Conference Call
- Tuesday October 9th Presentation
- 2 other meetings w the Union President Charlie Franz
- Numerous meetings with Chief Fernandez

What we have asked for in these proposals.

- We asked for a proposal from Wharton and Roxbury on the basis percentage of population.
- We asked each to provide us with what they consider their best professional assessment and policing method.
- We asked both to send their sealed figures to our attorney.

Percentage of population

- We asked Wharton and Roxbury to present a proposal to us using a cost basis as a percentage of population in relation to their total police costs.
- Police costs x % of population = Mine Hill's costs.
- For Wharton that would be 35.89%.
- For Roxbury it would equal 13.54%.

The process we have chosen.

- Under state law, we could have done all of this in closed session and completely excluded the public from any discussion whatsoever.
- It only requires a simple resolution to enact an agreement like this.
- The Town council should be commended for doing this in a transparent, public and transparent manner.
- Randolph was asked to participate and declined.

Misinformation

- There was a flyer put out by the Wharton Police Union that wasn't helpful.
- There has been political literature put out that wasn't accurate.
- Newspaper articles that could be misinterpreted.
- *We apologize for information provided by others that did not help the public understand what this is really all about.*

Special Counsel and Auditor

- We retained Michael Lavery of Hackettstown as special counsel for this issue.
- Executed police sharing agreements in Washington, Washington Boro, Oxford & his firm executed an agreement for Phillipsburg and Alpha NJ.
- Town attorney Anthony Bucco is not involved in this issue.
- Mr. Bucco has recused himself. He is the attorney for both Mine Hill and Roxbury and it is a conflict of interest.
- The Mine Hill police committee has also consulted with our municipal auditor, Anthony Ardito, to review costs and projections on this process.