

Saugatuck Douglas Police Commission
Meeting Minutes for
April 9, 2008

Call to order: Chairperson Hoexter called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Roll Call: Hoexter, Johnson, Mayer, Kowal, Chief Giles, & Peter. Simon was absent.

Motion to change agenda by Kowal 2nd / by Mayer, Motion carried.

Public Communication: There was a question from the audience about parking enforcement at spear street boat launch parking lot. Chief advised no one has ever complained about the parking there before.

Unfinished: Dave talked about Attorney Tom King speaking with the commission reference legal options Douglas and Saugatuck have regarding Saugatuck Douglas Police Department assisting in the township. He also advised there is funding available for this and what options are available to charge Saugatuck Township for police services.

Dave advised as soon as the data was given to the attorney there will be given a date as to when the Saugatuck Douglas Police Department stop providing service to the township.

Dave advised he would like records from Allegan County Central Dispatch as to how many calls were dispatched in Saugatuck and Douglas.

New Business: Chief advised that there is a cold case team that has been assembled to work on homicides that have occurred over the past 15 years. There are two unsolved homicides from this area one in Saugatuck and one in Douglas. Chief advised he would like to send someone from the Saugatuck Douglas Police Department for 3 months to work on these cases. This full time officer would be replaced with a part time officer and no over time will be paid. Mark Giles is the officer that the Chief is thinking of at this time. He also advised that this would be for 6 months. He will send one officer for 3 months and then send another for 3 months. Chief feels that due to two of these cases being in these two communities the Saugatuck Douglas Police Department should help out.

Proposed Budget: There is a 5.66% increase over last year. Saugatuck's charges have been taken out. Line item 810.001 has been added to the budget for Attorney/General Matters.

Barry asked about Saugatuck parking tickets. It was decided that Saugatuck parking tickets would no longer be going to Douglas but will be taken to Saugatuck City Hall from the police department.

Jane states that she would like to commend Chief Giles and the Saugatuck Douglas Police Department for doing a great job.

Chief advised the commission of the award Officer Rosenberg received from MADD for his stopping drunk drivers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.



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August 6, 2008

Mr. Bill Wester
Township Supervisor
Saugatuck Township Hall
3461 Blue Star Memorial Hwy.
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Re: Saugatuck/Douglas Police Service

Dear Mr. Wester:

As you may or may not be aware, for a period of time now, the Sheriff's Department, through its dispatch services, has been contacting the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department and requesting that the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department respond to calls for police service for locations within Saugatuck Township. These dispatch requests appear to be on a routine basis rather than based upon any large scale emergency involving cooperative law enforcement activity.

The Township of Saugatuck is not a member and does not financially participate in the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department, nor does it have any contractual relationship whereby it obtains any services from the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department. As a result of the foregoing, please be advised that effective September 15, 2008, Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department will no longer accept dispatch requests from the Allegan County Sheriff's Department for calls located in Saugatuck Township. The sole exception to this policy would be a dispatch request for response by the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department involving an incident where the primary responding agency officer (Allegan County Sheriff's Department officer) has determined that there is a clear and imminent threat to his or her safety. By copy of this letter I am advising the Allegan County Sheriff's Department of this decision and requesting that all calls the Allegan County Sheriff's Department receives for police services in Saugatuck Township be assigned to either the Allegan County Sheriff's Patrol or the Michigan State Police for response.

The Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department response cutoff date of September 15, 2008 has been established to allow you to determine if the Township needs to contract for additional police services with the Sheriff's Department. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS

David R. Kowal, City Manager

cc: Sheriff Blaine Koops, Allegan County Sheriff's Department
Undersheriff Jim Hull, Allegan County Sheriff's Department
Police Chief Ken Giles, Saugatuck/Douglas Police Department