

## Summarization of the May 15, 2017 Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Hundreds of residents came to the Town Hall meeting that was held at Long Neck Elementary on Monday May 15, 2017 at 7:00PM

Among those in attendance were Senator Bryan Pettyjohn, Senator Gerald Hocker, Representative Ruth Briggs King, County Councilman District 3 I G Burton, County Councilman District 5 Robert Arlett, Robert Coupe, Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

- Perry Allfather, Regional Manager, Probation & Parole
- Dave Johnson, Operations Administrator, Probations & Parole

And the following members of the Delaware State Police:

- Major Sean Moriarty, Operations Officer for Kent & Sussex County
- Capt. Darren Short, Troop 7 (Lewes) Commander
- Capt. Rodney Layfield, Troop 4 (Georgetown) Commander
- Capt. William Crotty, Delaware Information Analysis Center Commander-
- Lt. Mike Berry, Governor's Task Force and Drug Unit supervisor, Troop 4
- Sgt. Adam Wright, Major Crimes Supervisor, Troop 4
- Sgt. Richard Bratz, Delaware State Police Public Information Officer
- Cpl/3 Ricky Hargis, Sussex County Community Outreach Officer

Bryan Pettyjohn called the meeting to order and announced that he wants people to feel safe in their community. He said he would answer everybody's questions.

Gerald Hocker spoke and stated that he fulfilled his promise of bringing everyone to the meeting so that we may get our questions answered.

Ruth Briggs King said that she would talk later so as the Delaware State Police could get on with their presentation

Major Sean Moriarty - went through a power point presentation which indicated the following -

- The Delaware State Police handle all work from a dog barking to homicide.
- There are several Troops that patrol Sussex County
  - Troop 4 patrols Georgetown and Northern area
  - Troop 7 patrols Eastern area which includes our area of Long Neck, Oak Orchard and Angola Area
  - Troop 5 patrols Western area
- Contact Information for the Delaware State Police was provided
  - Troop 7 – Captain Darren Short 302-703-3265
  - Troop 4 Commander Rodney Layfield 302-752-3825
  - Kent and Sussex County Operations Analyst Major Sean Moriarty 302-739-5911
- There are a total of 192 troopers for Sussex County
- As part of their power point presentation they showed many charts and graphs which in summary indicated that overall crime was actually down in our area over the past 5 years. However in recent months we have had a string of robberies

which have indicated that particular crime has increased in recent months

### Crime Statistics over the past 5 years

Assault has increased 1.58%. Burglary, Drug Crime, Fraud, Theft, Rape, and Vehicle Crimes are down. Robbery has increased 16.67%

- Assault	+ 1.58%
- Burglary	- 42.19%
- Drug Crime	- 16.41%
- Fraud	- 46.63%
- Theft	- 50.70%
- Rape	- 44.68%
- Robbery	+16.67%
- Vehicle	- 61.54%

- Troopers can not be everywhere so they need us as citizens to help
- Things we can do to help the police
  - use our eyes, ears and minds
  - If we see something say something - DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL
  - Call 911 – if something doesn't look right it probably isn't
  - Any little piece of information might be what is needed to solve the case
  - Get description of vehicle and tag numbers
- Things we can do to help ourselves stay safe
  - lock our doors, turn on lights, get a dog, use motion detectors, get an alarm system, get a camera system – make sure it is on and recording current activity, form neighborhood watch groups, vary the time of your comings and goings so that there is no set pattern, network with our neighbors and watch out for each other.
  - Contact Corporal Ricky Hargis Community Outreach Officer at 302-752-3804 to start a Neighborhood Watch. He will sit down with your Neighborhood association and give you all the information necessary to start a Watch group.

Sign up for Facebook Alerts for the Delaware State Police by either visiting Facebook or the DSP webpage [www. DSP. Delaware.gov](http://www.DSP.Delaware.gov) -under the Community tab - under the Social Media tab. You can check out exactly where the crimes take place using the Crime Map under the Crime tab. But it is updated by an outside agency and as of Monday the most current robberies were not listed.

Bryan Pettyjohn picked several pre-written questions from the audience and online to answer. Among them was the following:

- Why don't the police make more information available to the public about the specifics of the crimes? Answer – They deliberately keep quiet about some of the information so as not to jeopardize the investigation and alert the criminal.

- Every real estate transaction charges a 3% tax. Where is this money going? Sussex County Councilman Robert Arlett, stated that half goes to the state of Delaware and half goes to unincorporated areas. Public safety is their number one concern therefore 58% of the money or \$20 million is used for fire, EMS, paramedics and police. This past year the County Council gave an \$2.2 million for an extra 22 troopers and the state matched the funds for a total of 44 extra troopers which we currently have in the place.

- How do we see an increase in Troopers without incorporating? Representative Ruth Briggs King stated that the formula used to decide how many troopers are placed in any given area depends on population. Since most of the population is upstate they get most of the funds for Public safety. However Towns such as Wilmington, Newark, and Dover have city and county police as well as state police. The legislature does not take into account the population swell in Sussex County due to the part time summer residents thus making the formula unfair. She intends to address this.

Kristine Arway announced the next meeting of Long Neck Strong will be held on Wednesday May 17, 2017 at the American Legion Post 28 at 6:30PM and invited everyone to attend.

Ruth Briggs King closed the meeting at 8:20PM.