

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL – SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

February 22, 2023

BADIN TOWN HALL

VISITORS

Stanly County Sheriff Jeff Crisco, Jennifer Flowe, Jesse Morton, Bonnie Hill, Jodi Hopper

Council Members Present:

Gary Lowder, Mayor

Demar Huntley, Mayor Pro Tem

Deloris Chambers

Dale Ward

Charles Council

Staff Present:

Jay Almond, Town Manager

Opening prayer by Deloris Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CALL TO ORDER

Lowder called the meeting to order.

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA

None

BUSINESS

Town Council met with Stanly County Sheriff Jeff Crisco, Badin Elementary School Principal Jesse Morton, and Stanly County School Safety Director Jennifer Flowe to discuss funding a School Resource Officer (SRO) in Badin Elementary School.

Morton said there aren't many Badin Elementary School kids from outside of Badin. Sheriff Crisco said the Board of Stanly County Commissioners chose not to fund 5 deputy vacancies, and the sheriff's office is short staffed. Morton expressed concerns for student safety, noted being in schools with incidents and close calls, and requested the town fund an SRO position for Badin Elementary School.

Councilmember Council said peace of mind comes with an SRO on campus, allowing focus to be on teaching and learning, and that a 400-student school is not a small school.

Flowe noted the school having a metal detector and a two-button emergency notice system for in-house notices, and real-time Emergency 9-1-1 notification. She also noted use of public safety emergency radios on a dedicated, law enforcement accessible channel as well as staff-monitored cameras.

Chambers asked whether or not the metal detector was used for student bags.

Flowe said metal detection equipment serves as deterrent and is used for special events.

Lowder asked where the county was anticipated to go with the funding shortage.

A dedicated safety director as opposed to an “in addition to” role, is new according to Morton, who said the safety director paged for emergencies. She added that the school does not currently staff a guidance officer.

Regarding staffing, Crisco said an SRO position presents an annual expense of approximately \$85,000 with salary, benefits, equipment, training, etc. included. That figure can be offset by a safety officer grant in the amount of approximately \$36,000, which is prorated daily from the first day of school.

Lowder said the town is engaged in budget preparation and he believes SRO funding will be a topic under consideration.

Huntley asked if deputies could stop in on the school until the situation is resolved, and Morton asked if a patrol car could park at the school.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lowder called for a motion to adjourn February 15, 2023 planning session.

Motion: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved May 9, 2023.