

TO: Village Council
Township Board
FROM: Ad Hoc Police Millage Review Committee
Jerry Aubry, Village of Milford
Tom Nader, Village of Milford
Don Green, Milford Township
Cindy Dagenhardt, Milford Township
Toni Vulaj, Community Representative
DATE: March 16, 2016
SUBJECT: Committee Findings and Recommendations

The Ad Hoc Police Millage Review Committee was established to review the Police Department operations and future needs of the community and make a recommendation with respect to how to proceed with funding as the current millages expire in 2017.

The Committee was comprised of the following individuals:

Jerry Aubry, Village of Milford
Tom Nader, Village of Milford
Don Green, Milford Township
Cindy Dagenhardt, Milford Township
Toni Vulaj, Community Representative

Village Manager Christian Wuerth and Police Chief Tom Lindberg served as ex officio members of the committee and Village Treasurer Penny Ray and Legal Counsel Jennifer Elowsky contributed to the conversations as well.

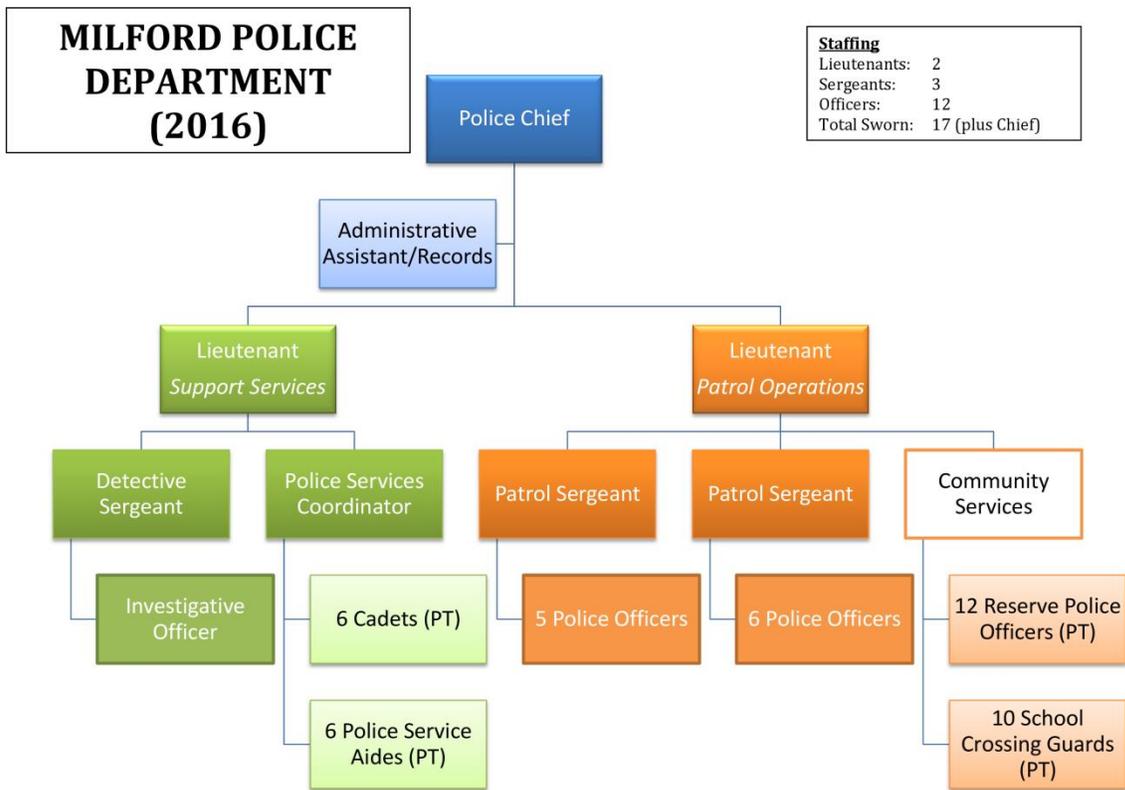
The committee was specifically tasked with the following:

1. Review current information related to the funding and operations of the Milford Police Department.
2. Review data and other pertinent information related to the future community needs, development patterns, and population changes as they relate to Police staffing and services.
3. Review any other information relevant to the continued efficient and effective operation of the Milford Police Department.
4. Make a recommendation regarding the most appropriate future staffing and services model for the Milford Police Department.
5. Make a recommendation regarding the most appropriate future funding level for the Milford Police Department.

The findings and recommendations of the committee with respect to these items are outlined on the following pages.

Current Operations & Funding

The Police Department is currently structured according to the chart below. This represents a total of 17 sworn officers, plus the Police Chief. Of note in the Department structure, one of the Patrol groups remains short one police officer, a carryover from the recession. The Department intends to request filling this position in the FY 2016-2017 budget request as a means of addressing staffing issues which arise when an officer is on medical leave.



The Department is funded through two separate millages, which are levied Township-wide – one for 3.0395 mills and the other for 0.7994 mills (as of June 30, 2015). Both millages expire after 2017. Collectively, they are projected to generate \$3,180,784 in revenues in the current fiscal year, based upon a combined millage rate of 3.8389 mills.

The second millage was approved at a rate of 0.8000 mills by voters in 2010. The intent was to offset the loss of revenues from the economic recession. Based upon projections from Oakland County, the total taxable value in the Township will not return to 2007 levels until at least 2021, independent of any significant economic development projects. Such projects could also potentially impact the level of service required by the Police Department, but will generally contribute additional funding as well. In reviewing scenarios, the Committee concluded that a significant reduction in the current millage rates would likely require service reductions.

While the contracting of dispatch services to Oakland County will result in significant savings from a capital outlay perspective, the ongoing personnel costs will remain about the same, though there are some savings with respect to benefits and legacy costs. In recent years, the budget has also included some additional payments toward accrued legacy costs in order to get us on track with required savings. As those additional payments wind down in coming years, the Department will be able to look at adding additional officers to patrol and other operations and could potentially add new services if funding allows.

Future Community Needs

Based upon projections from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), both the Village and Township will continue to grow in population through 2040 (the last year of projections currently available). During this time, the population is expected to age as well, which leads to some additional demand for services from residents. Of note, these projections do not generally consider any potential redevelopment and are largely the result of projections based upon existing development. As a result of this, the forecast completed in 2010 for the Township call for a population of 9,807 in 2040 - as of July 2015, the Township had grown to 9,921 and has already exceeded that projection due to new residential developments. The Village will also likely exceed its project 2040 population in the next year or two, as new residential developments occur.

Apart from the community population, it is important to note what is occurring in adjacent communities. Lyon Township remains the fastest growing community in the State and other adjacent communities are also experiencing growth. With the premier Downtown in the area, Milford is a highly desirable destination for many in the region, in addition to those whose commute brings them through town. This results in a higher daytime population for the community, which places additional demands on the Police Department for traffic enforcement and other calls for service.

Future Department Operations & Staffing

As noted above, the Chief intends to request one additional police officer in the FY 2016-2017 budget request to fill a need to balance the two sides of the patrol operations. This allows for more consistent road patrols and staffing levels to serve the community.

In looking ahead, one concern from a staffing perspective is that our current model does not provide for 24/7 supervision of the road patrol operations. As retirements occur, the Village Manager and Police Chief will review needs to determine if opportunities exist to add such supervision through new command officer positions, but this is likely only feasible with something in the range of the current millage levels. In an ideal scenario, an additional police officer would also be assigned to the role of School Resource Officer – a role that would allow for greater department interaction with school administrators, teachers, parents, and students. As the issues faced by our youth continue to grow, these types of positions are becoming more important in law enforcement operations and the community would be better served by adding this service to the Milford Police Department's operations. This position would also assist in coordinating homeland security activities and could provide additional assistance to other areas within the Department.

Conclusion & Recommendation

Based upon a review of the information detailed above, and multiple discussions about the future of our community, the Committee has determined that a millage rate slightly lower than the current combined rate of 3.8389 mills would be sufficient to maintain current Police operations and potentially allow for the addition of expanded patrol operations and community services in the future, depending upon the local economic conditions. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee recommends the following proposal language be placed on the August 2, 2016 ballot for consideration by the voters.

SHALL THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MILFORD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN REPLACE THE CURRENT LEVIES OF 3.0395 AND 0.7794 MILLS, WHICH COMBINED TOTAL 3.8389, DUE TO EXPIRE IN 2017, WITH A NEW REDUCED LEVY OF 3.8250 (\$3.825 ON EACH \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUE) FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS, 2017-2031, INCLUSIVE, AND SUBJECT TO AUTHORIZED DISBURSEMENTS MANDATED BY LAW, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE GENERAL OPERATION OF POLICE SERVICES, ESTIMATED TO PROVIDE REVENUE OF \$3,216,986.77 IN THE YEAR 2017?