

**JOINT MEETING
DANBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Alexandria Municipal Building

August 3, 2021 6:30 PM

Present: **Jessica Hatch, James Phelps, Tracy Shepard – Danbury Selectmen
George Tuthill, Robert Piehler, Chet Caron – Alexandria Selectmen**

Chief David Suckling(Police Chief for both towns) presented a proposal and a preliminary budget for a combined Danbury/Alexandria Police Department. Currently the 2 departments work together through a mutual aid agreement.

The budget presented calls for an even split of all expenses except for prosecution costs. Because Alexandria is in Grafton County and Danbury is in Merrimack County, there is a wide discrepancy in the cost for misdemeanor prosecutions. Alexandria pays \$17,000 annually, while Danbury pays \$1,500. One of the Alexandria Selectmen suggested looking into a prorated budget based on population.

Advantages mentioned were increased coverage and visibility of the police in both communities, the ability to recruit better applicants, the shared cost of equipment and uniforms. One disadvantage cited is loss of identity.

More research will need to be done. Currently Greenville-Temple has a joint police department. The information (the intermunicipal agreement between Temple/Greenville)available for this meeting was outdated and an updated agreement and information will be requested.

Any intermunicipal agreement would require approval of the Attorney General and the voters of each town.

This dialogue is in the preliminary stages and further research and discussion is needed. Additional meetings will be scheduled to examine the proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

The next meeting of the Danbury Board of Selectmen is August 4, 2021 at 6pm, Danbury Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant