

## **SPECIAL JOINT COLERAINE AND BOVEY COUNCIL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Coleraine and Bovey City councils was held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Bovey City Hall.

The meeting was called to order first by Bovey Mayor Stein, and then Coleraine Mayor Nielsen at 6:00p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Calls: Bovey: Mayor Stein, Councilpersons Trbojevich, Guyer, Meyer-Nail, and Lawson. Coleraine: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons Dreher, Sertich, and Sobtzak. Councilperson T. Troumbly was absent. Attorney Dimich, Coleraine Police Chief Johnson, Bovey Police Chief Hussman, Itasca County Commissioners J. Johnson and C. Venema, and Itasca County Sheriff Dasovich were also in attendance. There were several guests in the gallery.

It was stated that the reason for the meeting was that Bovey's Police Chief is leaving October 1<sup>st</sup> so they will be left without an officer; decisions need to be made on how to move forward.

There was lots of conversation that came down to three options:

- 1) Attempt to put a merger in place quickly and for Bovey to hire their own officer.
- 2) Bovey to contract with Coleraine for services.
- 3) Contracting services with the County.

Lawson suggested moving forward with a merger with a 70/30 split of expenses based on population. It was stated that a merger could not happen that fast and still would not solve the problem of Bovey not having any officers. Coleraine Chief Johnson stated that Coleraine would have the capacity to run a three-man crew to provide services and his suggestion was for Bovey to contract services from Coleraine – at least for the short-term.

Dasovich stated that there is much value in small-town police departments and that the county does not have the capacity to enforce ordinances and those other things that local PDs can do. It was brought up that Bovey has been working on making ordinances the same as Coleraine's.

It was stated that for the long term the two cities should look into merging. Attorney Dimich indicated that probably would require a hearing and approval from the Office of Administrative Hearings-Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit. It was stated that it is quite a process and would take a great deal of time and would probably require a voter referendum. Attorney Dimich was asked to look into what would be involved. It was also suggested that the County Auditor be contacted to see how to determine what the property tax implications would be.

After more discussion and several stating their opinions:

**Bovey** Mayor Stein, with support from Councilperson Trboyevich, **motioned for Dimich to come up with a contract for Bovey to contract police services from Coleraine paying Coleraine for one full-time officer at a loaded wage and with Bovey providing the vehicle, gas, any maintenance and any other related expenses till the end of February with a monthly renewal until a subsequent agreement is reached.** Bovey Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Stein, Councilpersons Trboyevich, Guyer, Meyer-Nail, and Lawson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**Coleraine** Mayor Nielsen, supported by Councilperson Dreher, **motioned for Attorney Dimich to come up with a contract for Bovey to contract police services from Coleraine paying Coleraine for one full-time officer at a loaded wage and with Bovey providing the vehicle, gas, any maintenance and any other related expenses till the end of February with a monthly renewal until a subsequent agreement is reached.** Coleraine Roll Call: Ayes: Mayor Nielsen, Councilpersons Dreher, Sertich, and Sobotzak. Nays: none. Motion carried.

There was a variety of further discussion along with gallery comments.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bovey Councilperson Trboyevich, with support from Meyer-Nail. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Coleraine Mayor Nielsen supported by Councilperson Sertich. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

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Robert Stein, Mayor

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Jestine Casey, Clerk

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Date Approved