

TOWN OF
FREDERICA

**MEETING MINUTES
FOR
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
February 19, 2025**

- Call to Order: 6:00 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

Mayor	Chick Glanden	Present
Councilman	Alex Donovan	Present
Councilman	Ricky Maddox	Present
Councilman	Bret Carpenter	Present
Councilwoman	Virginia Simpler	Absent
Town Solicitor	Diana Stuart	Present by Phone

- A motion was made to DEVIATE FROM PROPER ORDER, and unanimously passed.
- Dustan Russum opened floor discussion regarding police department accreditation, and introduced two representatives from the Delaware Department of Homeland Security.
- A presentation was given by the representatives, and a question and answer session followed.
- Some key points of information from the presenters are listed as follows:

The accreditation of municipal police agencies is mandated by Delaware HB-206. This legislation created a subgroup of the Department of Homeland Security known as “POST”, and empowered them to regulate police department accreditation within the state.

The deadline for municipalities to comply with the accreditation standards set forth by “POST” is 2028 (no specific month or day was indicated).

“POST” is responsible for holding all current and potential law enforcement personnel to a set of eligibility requirements regarding background history, physical and psychiatric fitness.

“POST” may also regulate continued education for law enforcement personnel.

Once all eligibility requirements are met by a candidate for officer or chief, “POST” issues an accreditation to that individual regarding their fitness to serve in law enforcement. This is a form of licensure, and is revocable under various circumstances.

Furthermore “POST” also regulates aspects of the police department itself.

A packet of approximately 105 mandatory standards was noted pertaining facility infrastructure and management. Some standard that were specifically mentioned included 4 separate holding areas to isolate groups of arrested persons by age and gender, as well as the mandate for a secure evidence holding area. The lockup facilities may be shared with other municipalities, but evidence management must be done in house only.

To achieve accreditation status, a Police Accountability Committee (P A C) must be formed, with no less than 5 members, who have undergone 20 hours of mandatory training. Among those members, one must be a clergyman, and one must be someone “impacted by the criminal justice system”. These two roles must be filled by town residents. The remainder of the committee may be drawn from, or paired with other municipalities. It is preferred but not required that the committee also contain one youth, and one business owner. This committee must meet quarterly.

A municipal police departments certificate of accreditation must be renewed every three years, but is evaluated annually.

A guided digital platform is available from “POST” to facilitate the accreditation process.

- A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to RETURN TO PROPER ORDER.
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes “as written” from the Jan 5, 2025 council meeting.
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes “as written” from the Feb 5, 2025 council meeting.
- Dustan Russum presented a synopsis of the water report, noting approx. 30 nonpayment disconnects. Following this he noted that there seemed to be signs of progress regarding site for the new water tower, which has been held up for a prolonged period in various regulatory hurdles.
- Dustan Russum then presented the code enforcement report, noting a few unfinished rental inspections, and several unregistered vehicles that required citation.
- Comment was interjected by councilman Maddox that it may be prudent to begin searching for vendors for the new water tank itself. It was mentioned that there is a long delay between order and fulfillment by the manufacturers.
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the water and code enforcement reports.
- Planning commission was summoned, but stated they had no new business.
- A concern about a sign violation was interjected to Dustan.
- Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurers report “as written”.
- NEW BUSINESS was introduced.
- The correction of a clerical error on Ordinance 24-05 was announced.
- A draft of Ordinance 25-01 was introduced. By unanimous vote, the first reading of this ordinance was tabled until next meeting pending further review.
- Mayor Glandon announced his resignation from the annexation committee. He then proposed Ricky Maddox be his replacement, and Alex Donovan take his place as Chairman. This was called to vote by council and unanimously accepted.
- A Permit-Fee allocation chart was presented for informational purposes.
- Discussion was opened regarding appropriate salary for a new police chief. No hard numbers were settled, but a general consensus was reached that a

competitive salary is approximately \$80,000 per year, with a \$55,000 Benefit Package. It was also noted that some grant monies may be available to offset police costs in the future, but less so in this budget cycle.

- The idea of an administrative assistant to handle paperwork for the police chief was briefly voiced.
- OLD BUSINESS - None

- OPEN FLOOR was introduced without public comment.

- After a call for adjournment, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Secretary, Town of Frederica)