

Town of Russiaville, Indiana
Special Council Meeting
Russiaville Town Hall
April 2, 2025

Council Present – Roger Waddell, Pat Reel, Don Parvin, Greg Landrum, and Jake Gibson

Jake Gibson spoke about wanting to sponsor Jeff Davidson to be able to go to the academy to become a Tier II officer, as discussed briefly in a previous meeting. Jeff would need to hold a part-time position with Russiaville Police Dept. Jeff is a reserve officer now for Howard County, but the county doesn't employ Tier II officers, only Tier I. There was discussion about what Tier II is.

HB1186 that has to do with reserve officers is still in play, but has not passed yet. Roger Waddell said that our attorney, Corbin King, stated in a previous meeting that we should wait on this bill before going forward, as we don't know the outcome.

Jake Gibson told about the training Jeff would need for this, also that part-time police would require special protections, whereas reserves do not. Jake feels it would benefit the town as an additional officer and help with coverage. There were questions about insurance. Greg Landrum asked how many officers we need. We have 2 full-time and 2 reserves that are almost done with training.

Don Parvin asked Jeff Davidson why he wanted to do this. Jeff said he was not doing it for the money. He said he just wants to give back to his community and help people.

Jake Gibson said as the county loses their reserves, they will not replace them. To go to training, Jeff would not be able to use the county car, equipment, uniform, etc. For the training, Jeff would pay for that, therefore we wouldn't need to come up with that money. As far as paying him, we need to find out more about what we need to pay him and look at our budget. Jake would like to sponsor Jeff and send him to the academy.

Pat Reel asked about equipment cost. Jeff said he would supply his own. Pat asked if that was ok for him to do this. We don't have money in our budget to be able to supply all that he needs.

Jake Gibson said regardless of the HB1186 it is more training and that is always good.

Jake asked about thoughts on our current reserve officers going for their Tier II training if they paid their own way.

Pat Reel said but if we can't afford to pay them as a part-time deputy, then our budget suffers and that is not good either.

Jeff Davidson said he didn't know if this could help, but said if we send him to the academy, and then we cannot afford to keep him as a part-time officer, he will step down. He didn't want to be a burden on the town.

Jake Gibson made a motion to hire Jeff Davidson as a part-time officer and send him to the academy for Tier II training. Don Parvin seconded. Pat Reel was opposed. Greg Landrum was opposed. Roger Waddell was opposed. With 2 members in favor and 3 members opposed, the motion did not pass.

Roger Waddell said he would like to get a few answers from our attorney on this still.

There being no further business, Pat Reel made a motion to adjourn. Greg Landrum seconded, and the meeting came to a close.

Roger Waddell, President
Megan Reel, Clerk Treasurer