

As stated at the October 1, 2013, Selectboard meeting, I am requesting your support to obtain radios, a fingerprint device and a License Plate Reader. These are through a grant from Homeland Security and are 100 percent funded.

### **Radios**

These are replacement radios for the cruisers, portable radios and a base station. These radios are digital and will bring us up to date with all the other police agencies that use the new technology. Since we need radios, there are no on going financial requirements to the town.

### **Fingerprint Device**

Our department currently uses ink and rolls the prints. These are mailed to the state where they are checked through the system and provide proof of an individual arrested. Mug shots are taken with a digital camera and kept in a file. The fingerprint device immediately transmits the prints for identification. If the person has any warrants or is being dishonest in their identification, it will return with the correct information while the person is still being detained.

Additionally, the requirements for school employees, parents and volunteers are being increased requiring them to be fingerprinted. At the current time, we are sending these people to Shelburne for fingerprinting. Shelburne charges \$25 for the service which helps offset the maintenance contract of approximately \$3,017 per year after the first year.

### **License Plate Reader**

## ***HINESBURG COMMUNITY POLICE License Plate Reader Grant***

*The Hinesburg Community Police Department is requesting consideration for a License Plate Reader (LPR) Grant. The addition of this equipment will greatly enhance and complement our existing equipment.*

*The Town of Hinesburg is centrally located on Vermont Route 116. This state highway is a major north - south route of travel to Williston, Burlington and Interstate 89. The daily traffic count on Vermont Route 116 when last studied was 9,200 vehicles per day. The other Hinesburg roadways that provide access to and from other towns total 11,100 vehicles per day. The LPR would clearly enhance our ability to monitor the traffic going through Hinesburg and*

*increase the level of public safety for our citizens and all the motorists using our roadways.*

*Hinesburg routinely has only one or two officers on duty. The LPR would increase officer efficiency. While an average officer may check a significant number of plates in an eight hour shift using conventional methods, the system is capable of checking thousands; it is limited only by the number of cars that the system encounters. Additionally, it provides for improved enforcement. More vehicles checked means that a higher number of offenders will be located for intervention. The result is a safer community.*

*With fewer officers working and extended times for backup, making an officer more aware of his or her surroundings produces a safer work environment. Knowing ahead of time that an operator could be wanted for a crime allows for coordination of back up officers which increases both officer and public safety.*

*Another feature provides for better intelligence for investigations. The data collected by the LPR system can be maintained and provides valuable intelligence for investigative purposes. It can place a suspect near the scene of a crime, to validate or disprove alibis, to find potential suspects based on eyewitness accounts with license plate data, and more.*

*A positive feature of the LPR is that it eliminates profiling claims by eliminating the officer from the process of checking license plates. The system sees and checks all license plates regardless of the ethnicity of the driver.*

*Several years ago, this department received a grant for three MDC's. Although a fourth was denied, the town supported the purchase of an additional unit and all four vehicles were outfitted with the MDC's. The Hinesburg Town government supports our policing efforts and agrees with the acquisition of the LPR technology.*

*The Hinesburg Community Police agrees to participate fully in this public safety and Homeland Security Initiative and to assume the cost of this system for a minimum three years.*

The controversy towards the use of this technology centers on the duration that information is stored. This has been addressed by a state law that requires any information to be purged after 18 months. The second issue requirements for the officer when stopping a vehicle after the reader obtains a “hit.”

As part of the program, this department will adopt the Vermont State Police policy. In part, one section reads:

*Positive responses or hits from the ALPR system are not to be considered reasonable suspicion for stopping, searching, or detaining a vehicle and its occupant(s) and that further investigation, reasonable suspicion and/or confirmation must take place prior to stopping, searching or detaining a vehicle and its occupant(s).*

I have attached several links to provide information regarding different viewpoints on the subject.

State law on LPR's

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/Acts/ACT069.pdf>

Radio talk show regarding LPR's

<http://www.npr.org/2012/06/26/155751305/license-plate-readers-spark-privacy-concerns>

Newspaper article on LPR's, Seven Days

<http://www.7dvt.com/2013vermont-legislature-considers-limiting-use-automated-license-plate-readers>

Newspaper article on LPR's, Williston Observer

<http://www.willistonobserver.com/police-chief-addresses-automatic-license-plate-readers/>

The grant comes with full price in addition to three years of the maintenance agreement. The cost per year after that is approximately \$1,600.