



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

West Cape May held its 50th annual Christmas parade Saturday, Dec. 5. Among the participants were Art of Gymnastics with its tribute to Willy Wonka, above; Fralinger's String Band, top left; West Cape May Farmers Market, top right; and the ladies of A Tiny Cruise Line, right.



Cape May, Point, West Cape renew agreement for police

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The boroughs of West Cape May and Cape May Point will receive police services from Cape May for the next 10 years.

Cape May City Council approved a resolution at a Dec. 1 meeting to provide law enforcement and dispatch services to the two boroughs. Mayor

Edward Mahaney said the city has completed two consecutive agreements to provide policing services to the boroughs dating back to 2001.

"It's been a tremendous asset for all three towns and it affords all three towns the opportunity to have sufficient police and dispatching services available and allows each town to survive budgetarily with this arrangement," he said.

The state is now allowing 10 year shared service agreements. Mahaney said the West Cape May and Cape May Point governing bodies approved the agreements.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod negotiated the agreements, said the mayor. MacLeod said the agreements run from 2016 to 2025.

Service fees will increase on a 2 percent annual factor,

he said. Cape May's lease payments to West Cape May for use of a portion of Borough Hall as a police substation will also increase on a 2 percent yearly factor, said MacLeod.

He said the state 2 percent budget levy cap law was the controlling factor in the financial side of the agreements. MacLeod said he discussed with the Cape May Police Department the amount of service

it provides to the boroughs and if manpower was satisfactory.

"It was reported to me they were able to manage and handle providing the service based on the current configuration of our personnel," he said. "We also discussed the amount of service being provided and it was indicated to me, that again, it was within our ability to manage and handle the services that were needed."

Councilman Roger Furlin asked if the boroughs were pleased with the policing services from Cape May. MacLeod said Cape May Point was "extremely satisfied."

He said he had not received any negative responses from West Cape May.

MacLeod said the boroughs requested the agreements provide language to take into consideration and offer adjustments if a countywide public safety dispatch center is instituted during the 10 year agreement.

Mahaney said he has been following the issue of countywide dispatch and took a field trip along with Cape May Police Capt. Robert Sheehan to see Camden County's dispatch center which took 20 years to fully establish.

"In essence, the Cape May County model is not completely determined yet," said Mahaney.

He said initially towns being included in the county dispatch center did not include any of the shore communities.

"One of the models calls for some of the shore towns to remain as hubs with Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point remaining as a hub similar to what we have now with just a tie in for major emergencies with the county and we'd still do the dispatching here for the three Cape Mays," Mahaney said.

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