

# Guilford Contract for Law Enforcement Services

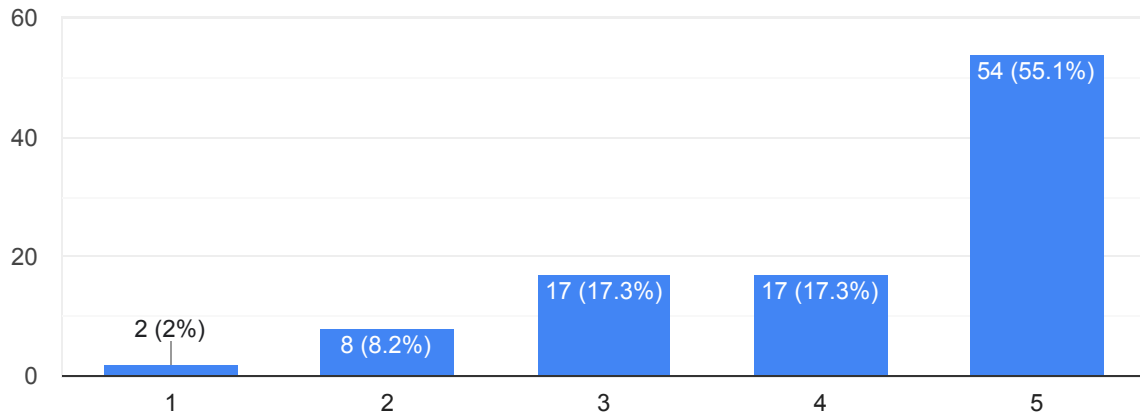
98 responses

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The Guilford Volunteer Fire Department has stressed the need for deputy protection and support on specific emergency calls. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest - rate how strongly you feel this should be part of the Windham County Sheriff Contract.

98 responses



## Optional: Comments on question 1

25 responses

Would the response time be able to be reasonable?

This should be covered by the VSP, but they are often slow and/or reluctant to respond. If it is feasible, the sheriff could provide backup coverage when VSP are unavailable.

I would like a few specific examples of instances where this was necessary taken from actual Guilford Fire Department experience.

nothing is more important than the security of our volunteer staff

How often are the firefighters actually threatened, Is traffic control part of the deputy service as well?

We need to support our volunteer fire dept and do the utmost to ensure their safety.

If the fire department needs support sometimes, that is important. I have no idea how often they need it.

The wives of the Fire Chief and EMT have stated their worry about their husbands' safety. I don't know how often these situations arise.

I worry every time the FD responds to a call. They should not have to do the job of the police. That is not what they are trained to do. They have a specific job they are trained to do and require the support of the PD in certain situations.

There's an underlying issue here that is not addressed by this broad question: the GVFD is being required to respond to emergency situations that are not fires. They are serving as first responders in situations where law enforcement or mental health professionals with appropriate training should be called. In lieu of adequate social protection service personnel a contract with WCSO, where a priority service is to be on call as back up to the GVFD, might cost the town so much that any other WCSO services would be too costly.

I'd be fine with state police fulfilling this role, if able.

If the call is dangerous FD should not go without police involvement. FD should let police handle call. WCSO will not be a better option than VSP after hrs. WCSO do not have resources VSP have.

I believe this is why the community voted at town meeting for allocating these funds.

This sounded like the primary reason voters at Town Meeting approved this article



There should be responders from the mental healthcare community for some domestic calls as well.

The problem I believe is that the sheriff will most likely not be available when the fire department needs them

It appears the specific emergency calls are beyond the FD role? Mental health calls should first go to LE. FD and EMS should follow LE. If more LE is needed then WCSO should be contracted but seems like FD is ahead of LE creating danger for themselves.

at town meeting this point seemed to tip the discussion towards endorsing the contract.

The fire department should have backup available on all calls.

Doesn't seem to be a lot of issues reported on calls for the volunteer department

Is there evidence supporting the need?

I feel it's important to support the needs of the volunteer fire department but also see the need to differentiate between discomfort and feeling unsafe and what is the benefit of police presence.

With the potential for drug/alcohol induced violence on some calls, a law enforcement backup (or even ahead of Fire arrival) to clear the scene is not a bad thing.

I feel VSP should be the first to be called and respond and Sheriffs only in cases where VSP isn't going to respond.

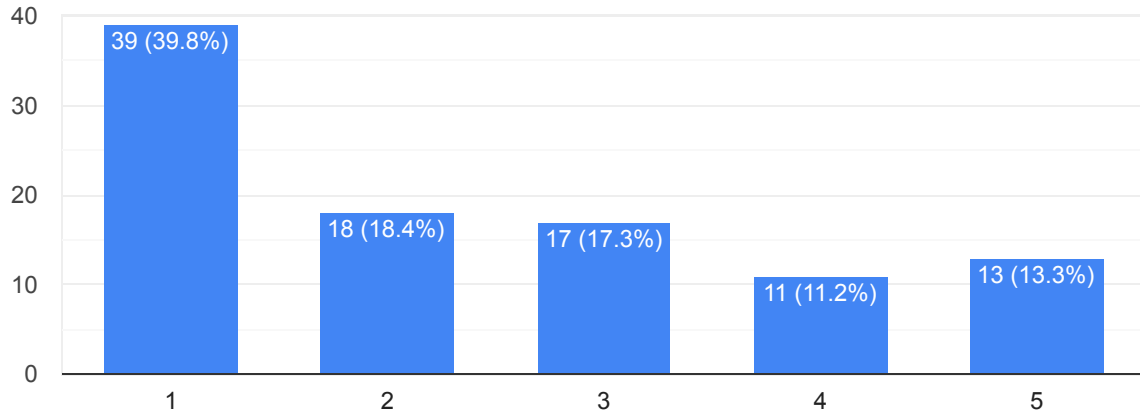
I would rather invest a paramedics or an ambulance.





On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is radar enforcement of speeding/aggressive driving violations to you as part of the Windham County Sheriff contract.

98 responses



## Optional: Comments on question 2

19 responses

I would prefer that there are NO speeding patrols.

I'm sure residents on busier roads will disagree, and I support them if they feel this is important.

Not realistic on our long, lightly travelled roads.

Recently I was at an event in Guilford center when a car went by traveling very fast. It scared everyone that was at the event. We were all standing near the road and it was clear an event was happening. We need to be able to have visual awareness and police presence if needed for such events.

It is nice to see that we have children in the neighborhood again

It seems that the radar speed alert signs mitigate some of the most egregious speed violations. If the town was instead to invest in two more signs (at either end of Guilford Center) the need for radar enforcement would be greatly reduced. I don't think that radar enforcement and ticketing speed violations has had any lasting impact on changing driver behavior.

speeding along Weatherhead Hollow Road is out of control. We bike and walk it regularly and feel unsafe from speeding drivers who do not give us enough room when they pass.

I'd prefer not to spend money on this since Guilford has very few high traffic areas.

There are several cars/trucks that regularly speed on Carpenter Hill-even on those blind curves. Had a few close calls this spring

If production is to be measured by tickets issued, a lot of people will get tickets.

We have the radar signs; this contract covers too few hours to waste them on something that is already being addressed in the most chronic areas where it occurs. Also, at TM, it was clear that those who voted for the article did not want to see resources directed to traffic control.

Northern end of Weatherhead Hollow Road!

Especially on Guilford Center Road. Make this road bike-friendly.

Drivers/driving has got a lot worse in my time here over 20 years. Distracted, in a hurry and impatient. No understanding/compassion for the their own neighborhood/town, animals, kids, farm equipment, walkers and bikers all share the road. When my wife and I go out for a walk/ride we are lit with brightly colored clothes, flashing lights on our bikes and yet folks still



speed past giving us little room to maneuver. Good to see signs further up Weatherhead Hollow Road but in Mass just after Franklin Farm that ask motorists to give a four foot berth around bikers/walkers.

I've seen speeds of 60 to 70 mph on Guilford Center Rd. Accidents and near misses at Blueberry Haus and more than one vehicle pass stopped school busses.

There has been some Massachusetts drivers speeding on weatherhead. Lyden already has a police department reach out to them and have them pull people over over the line.

The radar Enforcement can be combined with the community patrols to ensure high visibility in different areas of town

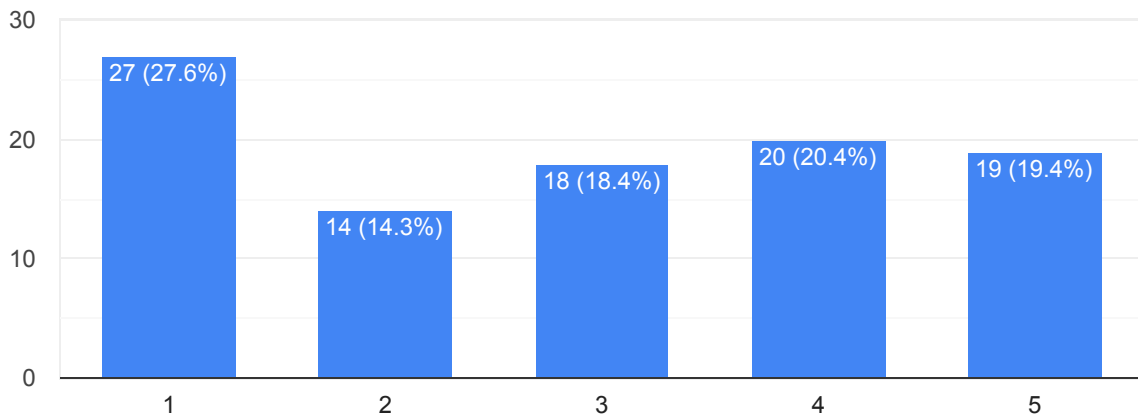
Guilford Center Road is hazardous due to the speed so many are traveling. Some direct attention might help modify some driver's awareness of the posted speed limits. I'm curious what the road's speed has been surveyed for.

Weatherhead hollow is unsafe and a racetrack. I live here and it's not people from out of state.



On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the importance of having a deputy on community patrol, a visible police presence in the Windham County Sheriff contact.

98 responses



### Optional: Comments on question 3

15 responses

It seems like it would be best if this happened at random times and various areas of the community.

While it would be nice to see, I am not convinced that much good will be done by randomly patrolling such a sparsely populated area.

This town is far too spread out. There is simply no location where this makes sense.

Distracted driving as a major concern on Guilford center road between weatherhead hollow road and Algiers. Some signage and a bit of visible police presence couldn't hurt.

This presence should include all areas, not just high-density or village areas.

Meh - to what end?

We don't have a lot of crime in Guilford or downtown areas in need of patrolling. I think we need more of an on call person.

That is perhaps the best use of WCSO for Guilford. However that's a lot of money just to be present in town.

My hope would be that all of Guilford would be covered in the patrol, and at those times when nefarious opportunists are looking for low-hanging fruit, like cars parked out side that can be burgled or have catalytic converters stolen. If you know that a community is patrolled, maybe you go instead to communities that are not? That may be wishful thinking.

I am more concerned about drug trafficking than local people speeding around. I'm not sure what the solution is, though I don't think it's to pay someone 40 hours per week for the once in a while real alert.

It would be a deterrent to speeding, and theft.

Guilford has a special community focused charm that will be tarnished by a patrolling cruiser. It would be an absolute waste of fuel and resources. As soon as we have one Officer in town there will soon be declarations to add another and another.

This seems unnecessary unless there is an active threat or something equivalent in severity.

Consistent random patrols (show of colors) always helps garner support for law enforcement and may deter anyone not here with appropriate intentions.

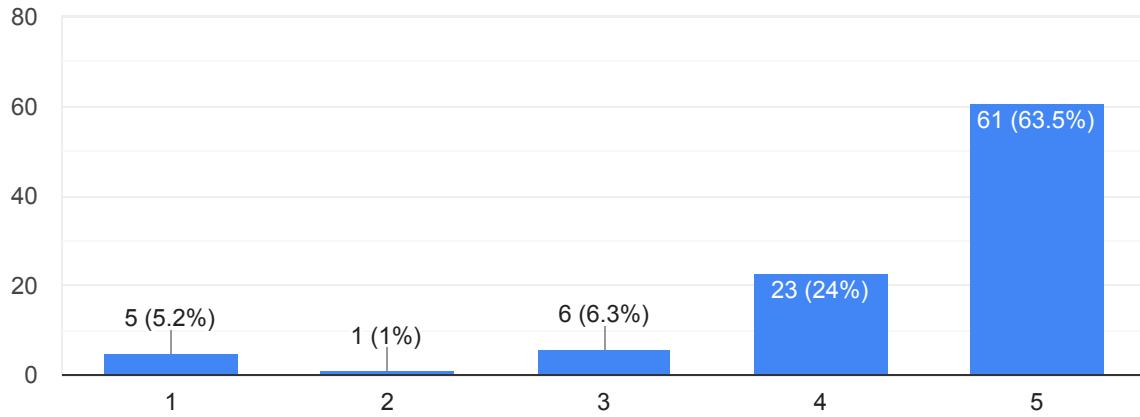


Break ins are really high due to lack of police presence.



On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the importance of having a deputy respond to 911 calls for burglary, suspicious persons, potential threats.

96 responses



## Optional: Comments on question 4

17 responses

I'm not sure how to rate this - a response to these calls would be a 5 (most important), but I'm not sure it always has to be the sheriff. Wouldn't a 911 call activate the closest or most appropriate responder?

Who responds now?

I think this depends on what the 911 call is about.

This is key to ensuring all citizens' safety and making sure everyone feels safe in our community.

Again, this is a matter of 24/7 coverage.

Who else responds if they don't?

This is the job of the Vermont State Police

For me, this is a 5 for suspicious persons or potential threats since the response may deter the threat. It is a 4 for responding to an already-occurred violation unless there is a pattern (multiple cars or houses in a particular area) and directing resources to finding the offender and, importantly, holding him/her/them accountable, would break that pattern and therefore stop future offenses there.

Ideally you would also have the state police, who have investigated experience

Very important but is WCSO response better than VSP? Unless deputies are in town when call comes in I don't think the town benefits

I think it would also be excellent to continue to foster neighborly relations so we can be good neighbors to each other, in addition to having this safety net available.

Who else would do this? State troopers are not to be found locally.

State Patrol does as best as it can, but response time is slow.

Cant we have the state police come for this?

I'd feel more comfortable if they were trained more in deescalation or restorative justice. We have to recognize the weight of what we are asking them to do and equip them with the knowledge and resources to best take on that role.



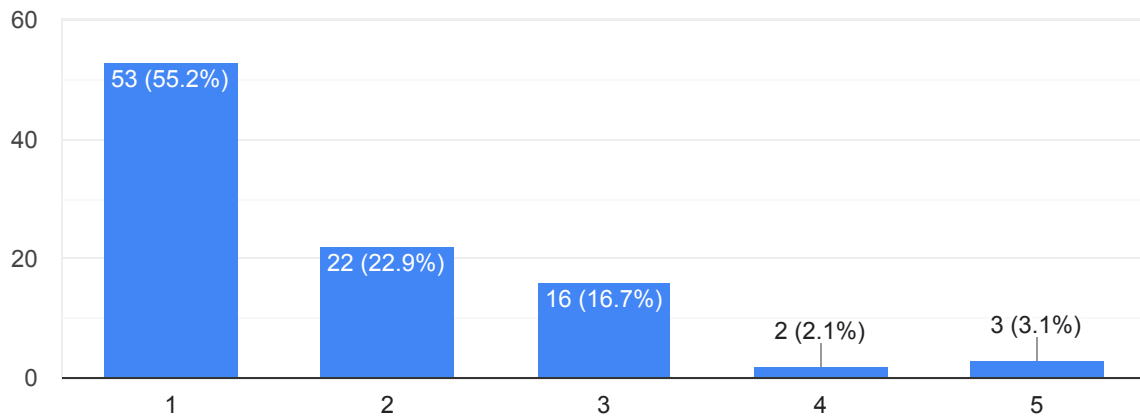
I can't imagine that potential victims of the incidents listed wouldn't want a deputy response as those can be frightening personal experiences.

Same as #1



On a scale of 1 to 5 rank how important you feel it is to have a police presence at the start of school days Guilford and at the end of school days in Guilford. Combined with a presence at various school bus stops.

96 responses



## Optional: Comments on question 5

17 responses

I can't imagine why we would want this.

I don't have information to answer this, it's up to parents and the principle.

The input of the Principal John Gagnon is more important than my input

This should be part of the school budget. I don't understand why these costs would be the responsibility of the town.

We don't have kids in school, but...

I don't have kids so not aware of any potential threats to the school.

I think a drive through while on duty is important but do not want to take time away from 911 and fire department support.

Good community policing but expensive

This was not addressed as a concern at town meeting as a motive for this contract. To use funds for this purpose, without the schools consent or request, would be an overreach.

That is insane. Would they stand guard next to Mr Damon playing the flute in the morning?

GCS is not located on a busy road; we don't need to slow people down. If the Sheriff's Department wants kids to feel positively about the role of a sheriff, that is their marketing responsibility. We shouldn't have to pay them for it.

Honestly, I can't speak to this one as of yet, so I'm unsure how to answer this. If the school/parents have requested presence, then I'd respect their input and opinions. I just can't speak to this one from a personal experience at this time.

If I could answer N/A I would. I'm not very educated about this. I don't have kids.

Not important at all. Not the use of a sheriff I voted for.

100% People pass stopped school buses, especially at Tater Lane and Guilford Center Rd

Absolutely not. Who came up with these questions?????

Certainly at the start of the school year until folks have gotten acquainted with the school bus

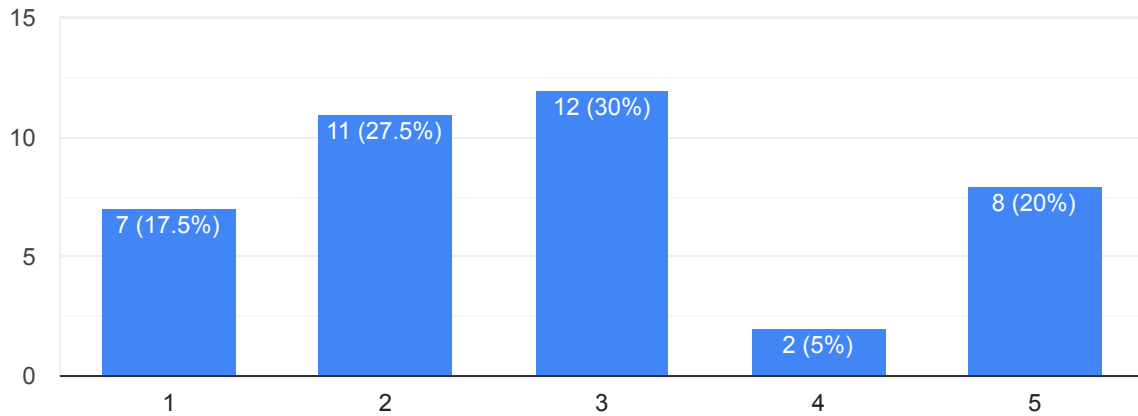


stops and traffic changes from summer.

On a scale of 1 to 5 -- How happy are you with the current police presence in Guilford, represented by the Vermont State Police?



40 responses



### Optional: Comments on question 6

8 responses

Is there a presence? I don't think I've ever seen police in this town, though that hasn't bothered me. I also don't know that if I called for help in an emergency that anyone would get to me quickly.

Never see them

Not enough patrols.

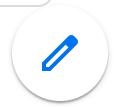
They have little or no presence In Guilford

Totally fine, If there is a problem that requires a police presence, I feel much more safe with a state police officer backed by their training, resources and coordination.

Rarely see them although I thought they were very responsive to a burglary of a local business (Blueberry Haus) last year (at least they attempted some follow up).

They are too far away to respond in a timely manner.

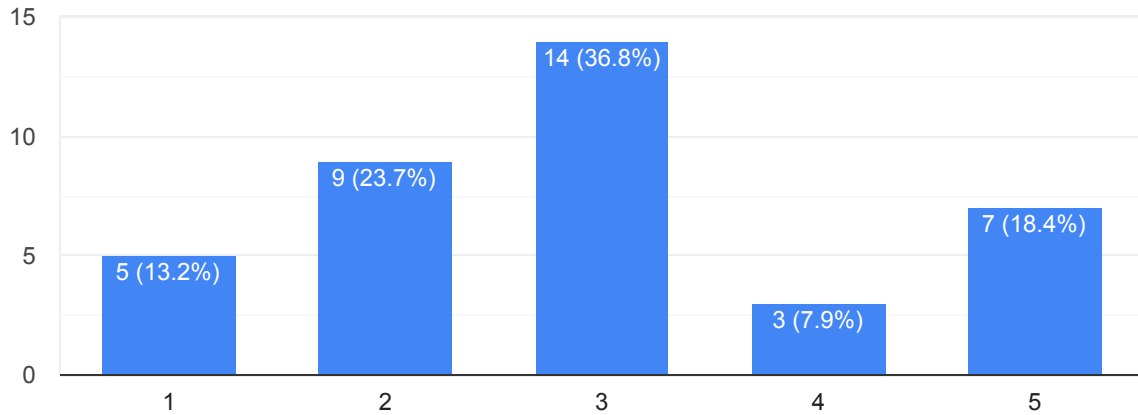
I have lived here two years and the only state police presence I see is the officer going to and from work!



### On a scale of 1 to 5 How satisfied are you with the 911 response level from the Vermont State Police?



38 responses



### Optional: Comments on question 7

9 responses

I don't know the actual response level.

Thankfully I've never had to use it, but I hear that it's too slow to actually be effective in a violent emergency.

Not aware of problems though media reports quite a delay in arriving at a scene.

Dont know

Very slow response. We can count on the fire department.

I have no experience with this issue

I don't know if they respond.

Thankfully, we have not had to make a 911 call.

Too understaffed



Are there other specific services you want to see in the Windham County Sheriff Contract? Your opinion is important - this contract is resident driven and requires resident response.

26 responses

Someone to contact with questions or observations.

Drug dealing on our Massachusetts borders

I can't think of anything.

Traffic control during events. Response to dangerous or suspicious rescue or fire calls. Presence around the Guilford school. Response to suspicious activity at residents, burglaries etc.

Environmental protection oversight ?

I believe Guilford would be best served by two more radar speed alert signs and investing more in social service agencies that deal with drug abuse, domestic violence, and the impacts of poverty and homelessness.

My main concern is speeding. Some folks/autos involved often big pick ups with no concern for others.....horses, animals, humans on the road. I have lived on Weatherhead Hollow Road for over twenty years and it has got steadily worse.

From town meeting, I perceived that the need for this contract was coming primarily from the fire department and not from residents. Therefore, I'd like the sheriff contract to meet the needs of our fire department.

Being available for crime, mental health crisis, danger and suspicious activity are the most important issues to me, followed by speeding. It's important to do a drive through at the school to show a presence and check things out.

I would rather see the state police do their job already funded by taxpayer dollars.

The less the better.

I'd like to have a sheriff driving Guilford roads, including stopping at Guilford School and bus stops a few times a week. It would be great to have some conversation with school kids.

Respond to domestic violence incidents

Covered by above questions



None I can think of.

No

neighbor disputes about animals

Quick response to neighborhood difficulties including illegal use of firearms fireworks and high noise levels.

I'd like to see a sheriff presence in the Algiers area and Guilford Center Road. It would have to be a different times of the day and night to discourage possible drug dealing.

I feel that responding to emergencies, assisting with fire or medical calls, should be priority.

Not in favor of the Sheriff Contract at all

Speeding concerns and a proactive community presence.

A general patrolling in Guilford and the back roads. Just a presence would be great.

it is not a good idea at this time to spend the money on a Windham County Sheriff Contract. Granted say in 10-15 years police may be needed as the town changes but right now if we have the money lets spend it on things the town actually needs. like roads, infrastructure and tree trimming around power lines.

I believe that high visibility at all different hours is more effective then Rader enforcement at high traffic hours only.

Work with the fire department.

Radar enforcement at guilford store only.



## Any other comments?

23 responses

I'm not sure that we need any sheriff's services at this time. The car break-ins last summer were no fun, but I'm not sure having a sheriff under contract will change that at all.

Given that we're having to explore this measure and allocate special funds for it primarily because the State Police have abdicated their responsibility to protect our community citing insufficient staff, could we request that they put some of the funds which they would otherwise use to pay for those infilled positions toward covering the cost of this contract?

I highly value and appreciate the care and attention of all those who are here to protect and care for us in case of emergency. Support for our volunteer fire department and in response to calls of DV or suspicious persons or aggressive driving feels very important to have backing from the sheriff department. Thank you for all the work you are doing for the town.

Support for the article was based on caring about the safety of respected residents. The Selectboard put an unformed proposal before the voters. I hope the working group will come up a plan for priorities and next steps.

I feel having a police presence in town is very important.

The neighbors around the 800 block of Weatherhead Hollow would be happy to let Sheriff park car in one of our driveways : )

I think it was pretty clear in the 3/24 town meeting that the vote was to authorize the expense of up to \$68K for a contract with the WCSO. This is different from approving a contract with the WESC, as the intro to this survey states. I recall that a concern from resident is that there might be no positive benefits to the town for spending these dollars..

We used to have a state trooper live up the road but it seems he is gone or retired but his presence/car was always reassuring knowing he was in the area.

be attentive to vehicles with loud/broken mufflers

We've long had a feeling that we're "on our own" out here. It was perhaps most difficult in summer 2023 when (near) nightly burglaries were happening, specifically in driveways and the Blueberry Haus. We wondered how this could continue happening each night and why we didn't seem to have any police coverage or protection. We wondered if an increased police presence could help mitigate this sort of thing. It was downright sad to be locking our cars each night in peaceful little Guilford, Vt. Personally speaking, we would very much appreciate increased presence and support.



Is the role of this committee to figure out how to spend the funding? Could the committee consider not signing the contract or is the decision made at town meeting binding?

Should be as visible as possible.

Speed limit on all sections of Guilford Center Road needs to be changed to a max of 35mph and enforced!

Thank you!

Living close to a busy fast "commute" road there is no escaping the traffic noise and inherent dangers in exiting/entering my driveway.

Police should be available 24-7 ... not just 20 hours a week. What happens the rest of the time?

I don't see the need for a sheriff in Guilford

Appreciate this contract. Hope to increase hours and length of time in the future.

Where i came from, there was a lot of corruption and ineptitude in the police department. So yes, I am biased. I have had to call the police before for a robbery (I lived 300 feet from the police station, it took them an hour to show up) which only ended up with a filled out report. no investigation. If police were the answer wouldnt we have less crime by now? Living NEXT A POLICE DEPARTMENT did not help me feel safe after that experience. Lets please just keep using the State police where and when we need them. they are far better equipped to deal with crime.

Does the Town have ordinances in place that ensures revenue from traffic violations will come back to the Town?

I appreciate you taking the time to take in our comments.

A proactive patrol in the area would be welcome but we would especially welcome traffic control (speed compliance and weight load compliance) on Guilford Center Road. We've only lived here 8 months but I've only seen one Sheriff's vehicle driving in to the Algiers area from Brattleboro. I get it's a small contract but a few saturated patrols when feasible might make a big difference.

no police state, please!



## Where do you live in Guilford?

84 responses

Stage Road

Sweet Pond Road

Weatherhead Hollow Road

Creamery rd

Creamery Rd.

Packer Corners

West Guilford

Algiers

River Road

melendy hill rd

East Mountain

Cemetery Hill Road

Maple Hill Drive

Andy Cotton: Gallup Rd / Green River

Hinesburg Road/ West Guilfird

Briggs Rd

Bullock rd

Sweet Pond Rd.

River road



586 Sugar House Hill Rd

Sunrise Drive

Hinesburg Road

Green River Road

Green River

Weatherhead Hollow Rd

197 Sweet Pond Road

Evergreen drive

Sweet Pond Rd

Weatherhead Hollow rd

Sweet pond

Weatherhead Hollow

Melendy Hill (yes - Sheila with her strong opinions!)

Evergreen drive.

Jelly Mill Road

Guilford Center

Route 5

Carpenter Hill Rd

Sunrise Dr

East side / RT 5

weatherhead valley

Stony Hill Rd



green river

Green River north of village

Sunrise drive

2799 (2802) Stage Road

RT 5

Green River Village

Tater lane

Yeaw Road

Stage Rd

Slate Rock & Lakeridge Rd.

end of Packer Corners Road - as remote as it gets

Sweet Pond Rd

Off Sweet Pond rd.

Country Drive

Oak Hill Rd

1 mile off of route five

Buck Hill Dr

off Sweet Pond Rd

766 Guilford Center Rd

Jelly mill road.

Off of Weatherhead Hollow

Bonnyvale Road



Green river

Lakeridge Road

Off bonnyvale

Guilford Center Road

Guilford center road

Weatherhead hollow road

38 Clark Drive

Route 5

South East

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