

## Public Comments on Village of Pinckney Special Budget Meeting (6-15-26)

My name is Lisa Yee-Litzenberg. I have lived in Pinckney since 2002 (last 24 years). I would like to see the Pinckney Police Department continue their service for the people and businesses of Pinckney. The benefits of having a local police department are many.

- 1) **The #1 reason is community safety.** Faster response times in emergencies. I asked the Pinckney police to provide their average response times to calls and it is 45 seconds! That is amazing for residents and businesses that have an emergency or crime in progress. If we had to rely on outside police services, the response time would be much greater—especially if an officer were not in the immediate area. It could be a half hour or more. And for emergencies after contract hours, it could be hours if no officers were in the area or responding to other calls in their immediate jurisdictions. The majority of Pinckney residents want a safe community, a fast response time to emergencies, and to keep our local police department, not contract it out to those outside the area. Active shooter incidents are increasing everywhere in this country. God forbid we have anything like that in Pinckney but most active shooter incidents are over in minutes. Having a local police department that can respond in 45 seconds would be critical.
- 2) **Home and business insurance costs can be kept low** with a local police department that has a fast response time and criminals avoiding the area. The opposite could be true if response times go up and criminals begin targeting the area. We were very fortunate to have the Pinckney Police Department on hand when the Pinckney Chrysler dealership was targeted a few years ago and multiple cars were stolen. The Pinckney Police acted quickly and brought the criminals to justice.
- 3) **The value of our homes will remain high** with a strong local police department that keeps crime low.
- 4) **New families considering buying a home in the area often look at the safety of a community and responsiveness of a police department to emergencies** when making a home buying decision. This has implications for enrollment in our local schools.
- 5) **Maintaining the community cohesiveness.** Local officers get to know the community on a personal level and establish trust.
- 6) **Contracting with a sheriff's office may reduce a city's ability to control the cost of law enforcement services.** Ex: One officer may be assigned to the area but for special events where multiple officers are needed (think parades or other big events), this would not be in the contract and result in additional fees charged. Liability insurance would be required.

I urge you to keep the Pinckney Police Department and to continue to fully fund them while seeking alternative methods to fund them over the long term. A millage would be a good solution and possibly selling unused buildings or lots to bring in more revenues. Village President, Jeffrey Buerman, was quoted in a WHMI article saying, "The final decision will not be made by me. It will not be made by this council. It will be made by the good citizens of Pinckney in a vote – in November 2026." Then keep your promise. Let the people of Pinckney decide!