

Shenandoah Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement District Meeting

Date: 2026-03-17

Attendees: Tom Hershey, Joan Brantingham, Todd Hodges, Ed Crane, Greg Player, Larry Horacek, Scott Dougherty, Jim Crow, Mike Fecel, Tucker Sharer, Roger, Shirley, Unidentified Speaker 1, Unidentified Speaker 3, Unidentified Speaker 6, Unidentified Speaker 7, Unidentified Speaker 8

1. Executive Summary:

- This meeting of the Shenandoah Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement District (SEC BID) covered a wide range of topics, including administrative tasks, security infrastructure, financial reporting, legal agreements, and community engagement. The session began with the swearing-in of two commissioners, James "Jim" Crow and Ed Crane.
- A major focus was on the neighborhood's security camera system. The board discussed integrating with the City of St. George's new, advanced "Verkade" cameras, which offer superior AI features. The current strategy is a phased replacement of the district's 17 aging cameras as they fail. A critical need for detailed crime statistics from the sheriff's office was identified to inform the strategic placement of new cameras.
- Financially, the district is on track, having collected 99% of its projected revenue. However, a significant and unjustified 19-20% increase in the general liability insurance premium was a point of contention; negotiations led by board members are underway to reduce this cost. The board approved updating the bank signature card to include five officers to streamline payments.
- Legal matters included the renewal of nine Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (CEAs) and the approval of a resolution to retain Sherry Morris and the law firm DFK as special counsel for the upcoming year. Patrol operations and liability coverage through the EBR Sheriff's Office were clarified.
- The board also addressed infrastructure issues, including missing street signs at the Tiger Bend entrance and a non-functional solar light. Finally, the meeting concluded with brainstorming for a new community engagement event in June, with ideas ranging from a 2K run to a driver's safety course, potentially in partnership with the Shenandoah Homeowners Association (HOA).

2. Key Action Items/Commitments for Larry Horacek:

- **Follow up on Annual Training:** Ensure the remaining commissioners complete their mandatory ethics and sexual harassment training. The goal is to have 100% completion by the next meeting.
- **Support Data-Driven Camera Placement:** Work with the board and relevant parties to push for obtaining detailed crime statistical data from the sheriff's office. This data is essential for analyzing crime hotspots and making informed decisions on where to place new security cameras within the neighborhood.
- **Get an estimate for new street signs.**
- **Coordinate with Landon (DPW Director) regarding sign printing and installation.**
- **Follow up with St. George regarding the non-functional solar-powered light pole on the Chadsford Avenue bridge.** (Follow up on March 18, 2026)

3. Detailed Breakdown by Topic:

Topic 1: Call to Order and Administrative Items

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - The meeting was called to order by Joan Brantingham.
 - Mike Fecel conducted the roll call, confirming a quorum with all nine commissioners present.
 - Larry Horacek noted that the annual ethics and sexual harassment training, required for all state workers, is well underway, with over two-thirds of commissioners having completed it. He anticipates full completion by the next meeting.
 - Joan Brantingham mentioned she must complete additional supervisory-level sexual harassment training.
 - The secretary's report (minutes from the previous meeting) was deferred to the next meeting as the report was not available.
- **Decisions made:**
 - The minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed at the next session.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: Larry Horacek:** Ensure the final commissioners complete their mandatory training before the next meeting.

Topic 2: Swearing-In of Commissioners

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - Commissioners James "Jim" Crow (new member) and Ed Crane (returning member) were officially sworn into their roles for the Shenandoah Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement District.
 - The oath of office was administered, and congratulations were extended to both individuals.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: Jim Crow:** Sign necessary documents as a new commissioner before the end of the meeting.

Topic 3: Security Camera System, Infrastructure, and Crime Data

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - **New City System:** A representative from St. George (Tucker Sharer) presented the city's new "Verkada" security cameras, which are being installed at major intersections. These cameras feature advanced AI (e.g., searching for specific vehicle types/colors), live-feed access, 30 days of cloud-archived footage, and the ability to create permanent clips.
 - **Camera Capabilities:** The new cameras are not pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) models. PTZ cameras were deemed more costly and would sacrifice the broad, consistent coverage and AI analytics of the chosen fixed cameras. The current cameras have a 168-foot IR range, can discern color at night, and possess LPR features, though using them sacrifices the wide field of view.
 - **District's Camera Strategy:** Shenandoah currently has 17 LPR cameras that are 8-10 years old and require being shipped to Germany for repairs. The board's strategy is to replace them with modern cameras as they fail, as a full-scale replacement is cost-prohibitive. One camera at Monitor recently required a reboot.
 - **Need for Crime Data:** Larry Horacek emphasized the need for data-driven decisions on camera placement. He proposed forming a council with other crime districts to lobby the sheriff's office for detailed crime statistics (time of day, crime type, location) to identify internal hotspots. Current cameras only cover entrances.

- **Infrastructure Issues:** Several signs at the entrance off Tiger Bend, including the Confederate street sign and the "Shenandoah States" sign, have been stolen. The board agreed to mount new signs on the district's existing camera pole on the left side of the entrance.
- A non-functional, solar-powered light pole on the bridge on Chafford, which the district paid for, was reported to St. George with no feedback yet.
- **Decisions made:**
 - The new entrance signs will be placed on the district's existing camera pole.
 - The decision was affirmed to install fixed-view cameras over more expensive PTZ models to prioritize wide, uninterrupted coverage.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: Tucker Sharer (St. George Rep):** Get with the chief to formally request detailed crime analysis data and hotspot maps for the Shenandoah area from the sheriff's office.
 - **Owner: Tucker Sharer (St. George Rep):** Provide contact information for the Triad representative to answer detailed questions about camera costs and capabilities.
 - **Owner: Larry Horacek:** Get price estimates for replacing the two missing signs.
 - **Owner: Larry Horacek:** Contact DPW Director Landon to explore using city resources for sign installation.
 - **Owner: Tucker Sharer (St. George Rep):** To have someone check the status of the Chafford bridge light pole tonight and report back.
 - **Owner: Larry Horacek:** Follow up with St. George on March 18, 2026, regarding the light pole repair.

Topic 4: Patrol and Crime Statistics Report

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - Tom presented patrol statistics for January and February.
 - **January Stats:** 34 shifts, 103 traffic stops, 77 citations, 29 vacation home checks. Within Shenandoah proper, there were only 15 calls for service (minor issues like alarms, a disturbance, one financial crime).

- The average of 15 calls per month is considered exceptionally low for 2,100 homes and has been consistent for two years.
- **February (preliminary) Stats:** 89 stops, 65 citations, 71 charges, and only 3 speeding tickets for 40+ mph (a significant reduction).
- **Decisions made:**
 - None. The report was informational.

Topic 5: Financials and Insurance

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - **Treasurer's Report:** Greg provided the update. The district has collected nearly \$125,000 of the projected \$126,000 in revenue. Expenses are tracking normally.
 - **Annual Compilation Report:** CPA Will Mercer is preparing the annual report for the legislative auditor, due June 30. No issues are anticipated.
 - **Bank Signature Card:** The signature card for Red River Bank needs updating. The board decided to expand the number of signatories from four to five to speed up payments. The new signatories will be Greg (Chairman & Treasurer), Todd (Vice Chairman), Ed (Secretary), and Tom Hershey (Security Director).
 - **Insurance Policy Renewals:** The Directors and Officers (D&O) liability policy was renewed with no premium change. However, the general liability policy premium increased by nearly 20% (a \$550 hike from \$2,900). Larry and Greg both contacted the new agent (Ozark) to protest the unjustified increase, citing the district's "spotless record."
- **Decisions made:**
 - The board accepted a \$250 reduction in the insurance premium increase, negotiated by Larry Horacek, while other negotiations continue.
 - A motion to authorize Greg, Todd, Larry, Ed, and Tom Hershey as signatories on the Red River Bank account passed unanimously.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: Greg Player:** Continue negotiations with the insurance provider to secure a more reasonable premium for the general liability policy.
 - **Owners: Greg Player, Todd Hodges, Larry Horacek, Ed Crane, Tom Hershey:** Stay after the meeting to sign the new bank signature card documents.

- **Owners: Greg Player and Ed Crane:** Visit Eileen at Red River Bank on March 18, 2026, to finalize the documents.

Topic 6: Agreements, Legal Services, and Liability

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - **Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (CEAs):** The district has nine operational agreements; four are perpetual, and five require periodic renewals with partners like the HOA, parish divisions, and the EBR Sheriff's Office. The Woodlawn Baptist Church electricity agreement is due for renewal on April 1, 2026.
 - **Patrol Liability:** It was clarified that deputies patrol in official EBR Sheriff's Office vehicles, and liability coverage remains with the Sheriff's Office per the existing CEA. Deputies act as independent contractors for the district. A suggestion was made to verify coverage details.
 - **Legal Services:** The board reviewed a proposal to retain Sherry Morris and the law firm Daigle Fisk Kocinich (DFK) as special counsel for one year. Services are billed as-used at defined hourly rates, aligned with Attorney General maximums.
- **Decisions made:**
 - A resolution to retain Sherry Morris and DFK as special counsel from March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027, passed unanimously, pending Attorney General approval.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: SEC BID Admin/Treasurer:** Ensure payment/renewal for Woodlawn Baptist Church electricity by April 1, 2026.
 - **Owner: SEC BID Admin:** Submit the executed legal services resolution to the Louisiana Attorney General for approval.
 - **Owner: Speaker 6 (self-initiated):** Optionally verify liability coverage specifics with the EBR Sheriff's Office. Speaker 5 (Larry) to provide agreement documents upon request.

Topic 7: Traffic Calming and Parking Enforcement

- **Summary of discussion points:**

- **Radar Speed Sign:** A proposal for a solar-powered radar feedback sign (est. \$3,500-\$3,800) for the Monitor/Antioch area was discussed. Concerns included cost, maintenance, and mobility.
- **Parking Enforcement:** Enforcing civil parking ordinances is challenging because law enforcement cannot use the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to run plates for civil violations. A potential solution is the "Inlet's Strategic Partnership" program, which would allow a vetted private company (like On Scene Services) sponsored access to the necessary data. On Scene Services has started the application process.
- **Decisions made:**
 - The radar speed sign proposal will be placed on the May agenda for re-evaluation.
 - The city will sponsor On Scene Services' application to become an Inlet's Strategic Partner to resolve the parking enforcement issue.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: Speaker 8:** Prepare an updated presentation on the radar speed sign with current options and costs for the May meeting.
 - **Owner: Speaker 7 (Chair):** Add the radar speed sign discussion to the May agenda.
 - **Owner: General audience/community members:** Report any vehicle that has not moved for more than 21 days for follow-up. (Ongoing)

Topic 8: Community Engagement and New Business

- **Summary of discussion points:**
 - **Shenandoah Parade Review:** Internal discussions have identified areas for logistical improvement for next year's parade.
 - **June Community Event:** The board brainstormed ideas for a June event, discussing a partnership with the HOA to broaden the scope. Ideas included a neighborhood 2K run/walk, an etiquette class co-hosted with a local restaurant, and a driver's safety seminar from the Sheriff's department.
 - **Streetlight Maintenance:** Tom has been reporting faulty streetlights. A full neighborhood audit will be conducted by Tom, Don, and Tom's son. The energy company's quick repair response was praised.

- **New Business:** It was noted that Shenandoah Estates was named the #1 friendliest subdivision in Baton Rouge. The board also officially noted the recent passing of community member Henry Grace.
- **Decisions made:**
 - No final decision was made on the June event; brainstorming will continue.
 - A formal neighborhood-wide streetlight audit will be conducted.
 - The next meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2026.
- **Action items/commitments and assigned owners:**
 - **Owner: All board members:** Continue thinking of event ideas and contact the chair (Don) with suggestions. (Ongoing)
 - **Owner: Tom, Don, and Tom's son:** Schedule and conduct a neighborhood-wide streetlight audit. (Due: TBD)
 - **Owner: Roger:** Sign pending documents presented at the end of the meeting. (Due: Immediately following the meeting)