

# Concern Expressed Over Lack of Police Presence

By Brittany Trandahl  
*Gazette Reporter*

“Just having officers visible is sometimes enough to stop the problems,” stated concerned Upton resident John Ryan during Tuesday, August 13th Upton Town Council's regular meeting. Ryan was on the agenda for public comment as he's recently had motorists speeding excessively near his home on Highway 116 and wanted to discuss the lack of police presence in town.

“I would like to see the Town move forward with hiring new officers,” added Ryan. Upton Police Chief Susan Bridge informed him that they are in the process and currently taking applications, in the meantime, she recommended he call dispatch when these problems arise, especially if he can get the vehicle description. “The Sheriff's Office is handling that right now and if they don't know, they don't know,” continued Chief Bridge. “But I will also pass this onto them.”

Councilman Justin Norman added “We're being as proactive as we can; getting more reserve officers, calling the Sheriff's Office, saying ‘we have a problem, we're part of Weston County, and we need more presence.’”

He also suggested the department start publishing a more thorough report in efforts to promote transparency.

Ryan also suggested the department start posting a police report. “As far as transparency and communication, a public report would go a long way,” stated Ryan. “All the other communities around us post their police report weekly or monthly and I would love to see that happen here in Upton.”

Mayor Nick Trandahl agreed and added that they (the Council) receive updates from Chief Bridge regularly and it would be an easy fix to share that on the Town's website and in the newspaper. Citations are currently published in the *Weston County Gazette*, but this would be a more comprehensive report of what the department is accomplishing.