

**VILLAGE OF GRAFTON**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

The Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Jim Grant at 6:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee members present: Jim Grant and Lisa Harbeck

Public Safety Committee members excused: Sue Meinecke

Staff present: Police Chief Charles Wenten and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE TWO MARKED POLICE SQUADS**

Chief Wenten advised that last year we purchased two Ford police sedans. It was found that due to the new configuration of the interior of the vehicle, the needed interior room required for all the equipment and officer was not sufficient. Issues such as cramped drivers quarters and damaged equipment due to lack of space have surfaced. In researching other sedan options; i.e. Impala, Caprice, and Charger, it was found they are similar in size and or shared similar equipment challenges.

The Ford utility patrol vehicle (Explorer) and the Chevrolet Tahoe are comparable in size to the Crown Victoria. The Ford Explorer has a V6 engine, which is claimed to be up to 35 percent more fuel efficient, at idle, than a Crown Victoria. He requested to purchase two 2-wheel drive (front wheel drive) Ford utility patrol vehicle (Explorer). These vehicles are pursuit rated. The purchase and setup of these vehicles would be \$4,832 in additional funds over what was budgeted.

Trustee Harbeck questioned why he was not asked for an all wheel drive. Chief indicated it would be an additional \$1,050 per vehicle, and he felt comfortable with the performance of the 2 wheel drives.

Chair Grant inquired where the additional funds would come from. Chief Wenten advised he is working with a gun dealer to acquire better pricing on the new handguns. Chair Grant requested Chief Wenten have information available for the Village Board meeting as to where the additional funds for the purchase would be found in the budget.

An email was presented by Chair Grant from Trustee Meinecke voicing her support of the purchase of the utility vehicles, stating they are a good choice and will give our officers the tools they need to efficiently do their job.

Motion by Chair Grant, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board approve the purchase of two 2013 Ford utility vehicles from Ewald Ford, Hartford, WI, for a total cost of \$55,582, on the condition

that additional monies needed (\$4,832) are located in the Police Department budget. Approved unanimously.

**AMEND ORDINANCE 5.16.118 / DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM**

Chief Wenten advised this request came as a result of a recommendation for an operator's license denial. The operator was under investigation for obstructing an officer during an investigation that was taking place in a licensed premise. The Chief had recommended denying renewal of the bartender applicant involved in the investigation. The Board tabled the recommended denial until the matter had been adjudicated. There was eventually a guilty plea; however the demerit points assessed for this offense are currently only 100 points, which constituted a warning.

Chief Wenten requests the points for obstructing an officer by a licensed bartender be raised to 150 points. He believes the severity of lying to a police officer during an investigation merits higher demerit points. This action will empower the Village Board with greater latitude in the future if presented with a similar issue.

Motion by Chair Grant, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board amend ordinance 5.16.020 / Demerit Point System regarding obstructing an officer by a licensed bartender. Approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS / POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Wenten pointed out the large increase in rescue calls compared to last year.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME COMPARISON**

Overtime had decreased compared to last January; however, Chief Wenten believed it will increase in February due to anticipated and unanticipated family leave. He notified the committee the new officer will be sworn in on February 19 at 9:00 a.m. in the Police Department community room.

**UPDATE ON EMERGENCY DISPATCH TASK FORCE**

Chief Wenten advised that questionnaires relating to agency duties were submitted, and sub-committees have been formed. Chair Grant asked what the driving force is behind this task force. Chief Wenten indicated that Ozaukee County had initiated the discussion. While all options are the table for discussion, the focus does tend to be on a consolidated dispatch at the county.

Chair Grant advised closing the police department would be a hazard to our community. Chair Grant stated that there better be some really good reasons why they believe we should lock the lobby doors, advising this is a safety issue.

Chief Wenten stated our call volume indicates that Ozaukee County would have to hire 2-3 dispatchers to provide emergency services for Grafton. Non-emergency calls would be routed to Grafton. Our agency would lose all local control over our dispatch policies and procedures. Chief Wenten advised that face to face, informal information sharing between the dispatcher and officer is crucial. In addition to answering the phones and operating the radio, our dispatchers type the reports and are knowledgeable of all incidents and sharing of this information is of great importance to our agency.

### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Chief Wenten has heard nothing further on any new information on school safety policies/procedures. Trustee Harbeck advised to her knowledge a Village – School Liaison Committee meeting has not been set, further stating there has been only one meeting in the three years she has been on this committee. She will request that a meeting be set in the near future.

### **UPDATE ON FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT STATUS**

The Fire Chief's job has been posted, no other information is available at this time.

### **OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Harbeck questioned Chief Wenten on the surveillance system the Water and Wastewater Department is considering. Chief Wenten advised this system (SOS Electronics) integrates easily into our surveillance panel. All employees have been trained and are proficient in the use of the product. This system is up and online at a number of different locations around the Village, including the Residential Yard Waste Site, Village Hall and Municipal Services Facilities.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Grant, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Approved unanimously.