

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MAY 14, 2013

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

Commission members present: Trustee Jim Grant, Trustee Sue Meinecke, Bob Wolf, and Joe Eernisse

Commission members absent: Trustee Lisa Harbeck

Staff present: Police Chief Charles Wenten, Fire Chief John Place, and Administrative Assistant Patti Hofstad

Other Officials present: Trustee David Liss

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Peter Lang, who lives adjacent to Lion's Park, was present to discuss speeding vehicles on Keup Road. He said in the two years he has been living there, traffic has steadily increased. He has noticed that many drivers making the turn onto Keup Road start speeding immediately. Runners and bicyclists are common on the road. He would like to see the speed limit reduced to 25 miles per hour from 35 miles per hour.

Chief Wenten advised the Department has recently purchased a speed detection device that provides speed monitoring and a traffic count. He stated he would like to use this resource to obtain an accurate speed and traffic count. He also requested Mr. Lang note specific vehicles or times the speeding is taking place, and relay that information to the Police Department. Chair Grant added that if school busses are speeding, these should be called into the bus company, a 3 digit number is needed off the bus.

This issue will be re-addressed at the June meeting.

ORDINANCE 10.36.010 / NO PARKING

Chief Wenten was made aware by Officer Goodearle of a dangerous traffic situation for semi drivers turning southbound off of Washington Street onto Dakota Drive. Drivers have to make a 90 degree turn, and when vehicles are parked on both side of the street on Dakota Drive, it is extremely difficult to negotiate the turn. Commission members agreed with this request.

Motion by Chair Grant, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to recommend the Village Board approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 10.36.010 relating to no parking on Dakota Drive. Approved unanimously.

REPORT OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS / APRIL

Chief Wenten reported the statistics have remained fairly consistent. He recently ran statistics for calls at Aurora Medical Center, and found the Police Department was called there 40 times since January. These calls range from 911 calls to alarms, citizen assists, and emergency detentions. There was a recent emergency detention that did not even occur in Ozaukee County, but due to circumstances, two Officers were tied up on the call for nine hours.

OVERTIME REPORT

The Department continues to be over last year at this time in overtime. The newest officer is due to be on his own June 3 and Chief Wenten advised he is doing very well.

UPDATE ON GRILLIN' IN GRAFTON FESTIVAL FIREWORKS

Celebrate Grafton Chair John Safstrom was not in attendance. Chief Wenten indicated he hopes Celebrate Grafton has enough volunteers to assist with parking and securing the closed areas. Fire Chief Place advised that Pam King, Chamber Executive Director, has requested a meeting on May 21 or 22 to go over the specifics of the fireworks display. He said the permits have been issued, and he was given a copy which details the type of fireworks being used. Chief Place indicated that they could strategically place their equipment around the closed area to assist with keeping people out and be in a better position to respond. Chief Wenten welcomed that idea.

FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT STATUS

Not much new information is available at this time on the Fire Chief recruitment. Four finalists have been named, and the Police and Fire Commission will be meeting on May 20. Trustee Meinecke inquired if any input was requested by Fire Chief Place, he responded no.

DISPATCH TASK FORCE

Chief Wenten discussed recent discussions at the task force meetings. The only real savings would come if the Police Department would close the lobby. Chair Grant reaffirmed that will not happen, it is a safe haven and needs to stay open.

The recent Crime Information Audit was discussed. This is the third consecutive time the Police Department has scored 100 percent accuracy. Chief Wenten advised this achievement is entirely on the shoulders of support staff (Telecommunicators and Court Clerk). The Commission commended the staff on this achievement. Chief Wenten pointed out that all dispatch personnel play a role in the accuracy of data and adherence to the guidelines set forth by the Criminal Information Bureau. As a result of their role in the data entry and the fact that the Telecommunicators type the investigative reports for the Officers, they have an invaluable insight into the persons that are dealt with and the locations that the Police Department are called to. This knowledge is a tremendous advantage and time saver when delivering service. This advantage would be lost

if the emergency telephone and radio aspect of the dispatch were moved to a consolidated dispatch center.

Chief Wenten asked the Commission if they were aware of the recently announced parks safety initiative and if there were any questions or comments. Chair Grant and Trustee Meinecke indicated that they were aware of the initiative and were in favor of it. Fire Chief Place commented that the activity at Veterans Memorial Park last summer was a concern to him and was pleased to see the initiative.

Fire Chief Place advised the Commission of a recent Fire Department extradition training. Twenty vehicles were used, with different scenarios of extrication, stating it was a very worthwhile training.

ADJOURN

Motion by Chair Grant, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Approved unanimously.