

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2013

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

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

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

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Handicap parking space request

Brian Behrens was present to request a handicap parking space. He advised he owns the buildings from 1102 – 1110 Bridge Street. He presented a picture showing a space he has in mind which is directly in front of the Forte Salon on the north side of Bridge Street. A percentage of the clients at Forte are elderly, in addition to the fact they will be hiring a handicap employee. He noted there are no handicap parking spaces on Bridge Street, between 11th and 12th Avenue.

Chief Wenten asked about any additional parking, and Mr. Behrens responded there is a parking lot in the back of the building with one handicap space, however there is no handicap accessible entrance in back. Mr. Behrens stated that the front entrance to the building is handicap accessible.

Chair Grant asked that Chief Wenten measure the space, and place this item back on the agenda next month for further review.

Police service billing for festivals

Kristine Raymond, Grafton Blues Association, was present to discuss the Village's festival police policy. She asked the charge for police presence be waived for the Blues Festival, primarily because their group cannot afford it. Based on cost estimates she received from Captain Gabrish, they will be charged approximately \$800 for the 2013 event. Ms Raymond indicated that the cost associated with the 2012 event was over \$1000. She asked what they could do to get more Reserve Officers and less paid Officers.

Chief Wenten explained that the shift minimums for personnel are set based on reasonable expectations and needs of calls for service in the Village. When an event is known, additional resources are allocated. The use of private security and Grafton Police Reserves merely augments sworn police officers. Security and other non-sworn personnel cannot take law enforcement action, make arrests, conduct investigations and all other aspects of official law enforcement action. Chief Wenten stated that whether or not the Village charges for the resources does not factor into the number of

personnel dedicated to the event. The resources will still be assigned to ensure the safety and integrity of the event.

Chair Grant referred this request to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Raymond was advised the next meeting is on August 5, and this item will be placed on that agenda.

Mrs. Raymond concluded by saying that one event in the Village has already been eliminated because of cost, and she would hate to have to eliminate another.

Keup Road traffic study

Paul Malek, 462 Bridge Court, was present to discuss the traffic on Keup Road. Chair Grant noted at May's meeting, Peter Lang, who lives adjacent to Mr. Malek, voiced his concern about the speeding on Keup Road.

Chief Wenten advised a speed detection device was placed on Keup Road for both north and southbound traffic. The northbound traffic was monitored adjacent to Highland Drive. Using a 6 mile per hour variance, 6 percent of the vehicles travelled 41 miles per hour or greater. The southbound traffic was monitored just at Bobolink Road. The majority of vehicles at this location were travelling between 26 and 30 miles per hour.

Mr. Malek stated his primary concern is that drivers do not yield for pedestrians in the crosswalk going to Lion's Park. Chief Wenten agreed that yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks is a problem. Mr. Malek inquired if a pedestrian yield sign would help. Chief Wenten responded that these type of signs are typically ineffective. He suggested possibly readdressing the visibility of the crosswalk. An informational article in the local media regarding stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk was also discussed.

Mr. Malek was advised he can call in offenders, as long as he is willing to make a written statement and act as a complainant should the issue go to court.

REPORT OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS / MAY

Chief Wenten reported that traffic stops are slightly down due to some officer shortages. Rescue calls are up, as well as 911 calls. Chief Wenten advised of a cost savings that Captain Grissom had researched. Previously the department was paying \$90.00 per month for a dedicated 911 cellular line. We were able to combine our 911 land lines with our 911 cellular lines which eliminated the need for the dedicated cellular 911 line. This action increased our ability to receive cellular 911 calls and reduced costs.

5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVISION

Chief Wenten advised a new phone system was planned to be purchased in 2015. A few months ago, one of the phone cards failed. Our service person used a refurbished part, but has advised us of the need to replace the system soon, as these parts are difficult to find.

Due to this concern, Chief Wenten is recommending the phone system purchase and gig switch be moved from 2015 to 2014, and the 4 x 4 squad be moved from 2014 to 2015. This movement actually balanced the yearly costs more evenly.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Trustee Harbeck to recommend the Finance Committee approve the 2014-2018 Police Department Capital Improvement Program, as presented. Approved unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME REPORT / MAY

Chair Grant is hopeful the School Liaison Officer will be able to spend more time in the schools. Chief Wenten advised the new Police Officer is on his own, and with no pending family leave, the Department is now at full staff.

FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT STATUS

Chair Grant informed the members that this Commission, per state statute, has nothing to do with the hiring or firing of the fire chief; the only role of the Village Board is to set compensation and benefits.

Town representative Joe Eernisse stated he found it ridiculous that this process has already taken 9 months.

Trustee Meinecke inquired if any members of the Police and Fire Commission lived in the Town of Grafton. All members currently reside in the Village.

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY DISPATCH TASK FORCE

Chief Wenten advised that Mr. Richard Tuma, soon to be retired Administrator of the Waukesha Consolidated Dispatch Center spoke at the last meeting. This center is a consortium, not run by the Sheriff's department. Mr. Tuma stated that there could be a savings on equipment costs, but probably not on personnel costs. The committee is researching hiring a consultant to conduct a cost analysis of potential savings. The question remains, what does the Village want and at what cost.

Chair Grant stated his vote will remain not to close the lobby. Chief Wenten referred to three lobby assists in the first three months of 2013, noting that the Police Station is highly visible and on a major state highway, it is easily accessible for people needing police assistance.

Town representative Joe Eernisse discussed speaking to both fire and police officers in Port Washington who don't like being dispatched out of the Sheriff's Department, and losing their lobby hours. He advised to keep our dispatch center as long as we can, saying once it is gone it is gone.

Trustee Meinecke referred to a recent call she made to the Grafton Police Department of a suspicious person. The individual walked into the Town of Grafton, and she was transferred to the Ozaukee County dispatch, and was placed on hold four times. She

also noted that Grafton did send a squad to check. Chief Wenten commented that it is common practice to provide backup and mutual aid to surrounding communities.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Approved unanimously.