

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2014

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

Commissioners present: Chair Jim Grant, Trustee Sue Meinecke, Trustee Lisa Harbeck, and Commissioner Bob Wolf

Commissioner excused: Joe Eernisse

Staff present: Police Chief Charles Wenten, Building Inspector Tom Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Patti Hofstad

Staff excused: Fire Chief Bill Rice

Other Officials present: Trustee Dean Proefrock

2014 CHAPTER 16 CHANGES

Building Inspector Tom Johnson was present to explain requested changes to Chapter 16 building code. Fees have not increased since 2009. A survey of comparable homes in similar communities averaged \$2,498 for permit fees. This compares to Grafton's average of \$2,423, slightly below average. The changes reflect minimal increases in some areas.

Mr. Johnson indicated he included a liquor license inspection fee of \$50.00. This is a very nominal charge as there is much time and resources involved in these inspections.

Text additions were added under prohibited practices which would allow the building inspector to give the Inspection Department tools to effectively deal with exterior premise issues for properties that fall into foreclosure, abandonment, and unoccupied categories. This verbiage has been reviewed by the Police Chief and the Village Attorney. It would not apply to properties that are occupied.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Trustee Harbeck to recommend the Village Board approve a request for amendments to Chapter 16 - Inspection fees. Motion carried.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Commissioner Wolf related information regarding the Town of Grafton status on improvements at the intersection of County Trunk Highways V and W. He advised the Town has applied for a grant that would pay 90 percent of the cost of re-construction. It will take up to two months to find out if the grant has been approved.

Commissioner Wolf questioned why 20 sets of turnout gear was requested to be purchased in 2013, however the purchase was not approved until 2014. In the absence of Fire Chief Rice, Chief Wenten explained the equipment could not be shipped until this year, and accounting policy mandates that the gear has to be delivered the same year it is accounted for.

REQUEST FOR A 1014 UPAF RIDE FOR THE ARTS BIKE RIDE

Chief Wenten discussed a request from the United Performing Arts Fund to allow a bike ride to pass through the Village on June 1, 2014. No overtime is needed, Reserve Officers would assist at the intersections at WIS 60 and Port Washington Road, and Port Washington Road and Falls Road.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Meinecke to recommend the Village Board approve a request from the United Performing Arts Fund to pass through the Village of Grafton on Sunday, June 1, 2014. Motion carried.

BENCHMARK STATISTICS / JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Chief Wenten noted a decrease in traffic stops, primarily due to the frigid weather. Business checks increased. The number of violent crimes in February should be five, instead of two.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

February overtime was drastically reduced, from 249 hours to 26 hours. Chair Grant inquired what the manpower shortage consists of. Chief Wenten explained that it is used for tracking overtime associated with long term personnel absence that causes overtime, such as FMLA issues. Sgt. Podewils is able to spend more time in the schools. Chair Grant asked if anything was trending in the schools, with Chief Wenten responding that electronic harassment and bullying has been on the increase. Discussion ensued regarding schools allowing students to use their cell phones in class. Chair Grant asked Chief Wenten to research schools that ban cell phones and other electronic devices. This issue will be discussed at the April meeting.

Chair Grant advised a citizen has requested traffic signals at First Avenue and Falls Road. Chief Wenten noted there have been 17 accidents since January 1, 2012, five of them involved personal injury.

Chair Grant voiced his concern that traffic will increase as this area grows. Chief Wenten agreed, and had discussed the concept of a roundabout at this intersection. Chair Grant believed roundabout was a good idea to research; however, asked about temporary stop signs in the interim. Chief Wenten will consult with Director of Public Works Murphy on temporary stop signs.

Chief Wenten advised the Police Department will be going live with, as soon as next week, Text 411 Tip Line, which allows a person to text informational tips which would be received by the dispatcher. Mequon and Port Washington Police Department are both

on line with this tip line, which has provided valid and important information. The media will be informed that this text line will be available.

Trustee Meinecke inquired the status of the Administrative Assistant I hiring process. Chief Wenten advised approximately 85 applications were received. At this time, the top 15 candidates are taking an in-depth clerical tests through SEEK. The top applicants will then be interviewed and background checks will be conducted.

ADJOURN

Motion by Chair Grant, seconded by Trustee Meinecke to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

DRAFT