

## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

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

Commissioners present: Trustee Jim Grant, Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Trustee Dean Proefrock, and Commissioner Bob Wolf

Commissioner excused: Joe Eernisse

Staff present: Police Chief Charles Wenten, Fire Chief Bill Rice, and Administrative Assistant Clarissa Allen

Other Officials present: Trustee David Liss

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Proefrock to approve the August 19, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

#### **Status of Paramedic Program**

Chief Rice explained that the Grafton Fire Department is currently in the final stage of developing a Paramedic Program feasibility study. One of the requirements of the study is to hold a public forum which gives Village residents and Committees an opportunity to ask questions and give comments regarding the Paramedic Program. Chief Rice advised that this opportunity will occur at next month's Public Safety Commission meeting. Trustee Grant and Trustee Harbeck, think it is very important for the public to have this opportunity and would like to see information regarding the public forum posted via different media outlets, such as newspaper and social media. Chief Rice will keep the Committee informed on the progress of this.

#### **Report of Benchmark measurements**

Chief Wenten advised that there is an increase of involuntary commitments between this time last year and now. Last year at this time, the Police Department responded to 17 involuntary commitments, compared to 25 year to date in 2014. These types of calls require a significant amount of time and

resources away from other directed patrol duties. There is also a significant increase in the amount of 911 calls that the Police Department is responding to. All 911 calls have a mandatory police response, whether they are hang up calls, misdial type calls, or open line type calls. Property Crimes are lower for this period of time, compared to 2013, perhaps due (in part) to business door checks, as well as directed patrols. Lobby Assists are shown to be down; however, the Department's current system of tracking lobby walk-ins is being reviewed. In speaking with staff and monitoring the lobby, this does not appear to be accurate. This will be further monitored to determine if there is a flaw in our tracking system.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### **August and September Benchmarks**

Chief Wenten included the August and September Benchmark information while discussing the January through September 2014 Benchmark measurements.

### **Overtime**

Overtime statistics continue to be favorable. There have been several employees utilizing FMLA during the past month. Chief Wenten advised that the Police Department is exercising its options for keeping the overtime down.

### **Speed limit signs on Falls Road**

Chief Wenten advised that a covert traffic counter device was placed on Falls Road in the 1600 block, for a period of nine days. During the nine day period, a total of 43,800 cars traveled in this area, averaging approximately 5,400 cars per day. This has assisted the Police Department in determining what time of day more directed patrol was needed. Chief discussed the LED traffic signs in the Village of Thiensville and how effective they are. The cost of that specific device is approximately \$25,000. Chief indicated that he will be researching other options during his upcoming training.

A brief discussion regarding speed complaints unfolded. Trustee Harbeck advised that she has had personal experience while walking on Washington Street between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed in this area. Chief Wenten advised that Officers do monitor traffic on Washington Street, and regularly position themselves on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to monitor traffic. Trustee Harbeck inquired about placing bright yellow pedestrian walking signs in the area to possibly slow down traffic. Chief Wenten advised that due to this section of roadway being a four lane highway, those

types of signs may not be effective. Chief Wenten advised he would look at what options there are for that area.

### **Status of additional Crossing Guard at 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Washington Street**

Chief Wenten advised that the Village of Grafton is advertising to fill the Crossing Guard position; however, have not received any applications or interest in the position. Chief Wenten advised that it is a difficult position to fill due to the staggered hours and at times inclement weather. Chief Wenten is coordinating this effort with Dr. Lightner of the Grafton School District to try to fill this position.

Chief Rice presented the Commission with copies of a new Benchmark report that he is able to provide, produced from the Fire Department's new records system. Chief Rice advised that he will be working on adding more information to the report, such as hours being allocated to calls, and call tracking.

Commissioner Wolf would like to see a breakdown of this information between Village, Town, and Mutual Aid calls.

Chief Rice also updated the Commission on the status of Fire Department vehicles. The two new ambulances have been ordered and delivery is expected in January. The utility vehicle, a four wheel drive truck has also been ordered. All new Fire Department vehicles will be red, and have the same graphics.

Chief Rice also wanted to publicly thank the Police Department for working so well with the Fire and Rescue staff on calls for service. Chief Rice advised that all the responding Police Department staff have a good rapport with the Fire Department first responders which makes for a great working relationship.

Chief Rice added that the response for the Grafton Fire Department's open house last week, was very positive. A very large number of people came through and toured the Fire Department and participated in activities that the Fire Department provided. The Fire Department also visited all the Grafton Schools last week, which was beneficial and a good experience for the students. Chief Rice advised that they will continue to be involved in these types of events.

### **ADJOURN**

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Commissioner Wolf adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried.