

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

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

Commissioners present: Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Trustee Dean Proefrock, Bob Wolf, and Joe Eernisse

Commissioner excused: Trustee David Antoine

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

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Commissioner Wolf to approve the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

VOLUNTEER FIRE OFFICER STIPENDS

Chief Rice explained that stipends are a commonly used method to reward volunteer Fire Officers for being on-call and attending extra training. Currently, Fire Officers are only paid for the actual hours worked and attending scheduled training. The Fire Officers who would be eligible for these stipends would be Lieutenants, Captains, a Coordinator, and a Deputy Chief. The amount paid would be up to the discretion of Chief Rice, and would be based on attendance and participation. Chief Rice explained that the stipends that would be paid out have been budgeted for in the 2015 budget previously; however, is presenting it at this time for a formal review of Fire Officer Stipends as a form of compensation and approval by the Village Board.

Trustee Harbeck commented that the Village currently offers longevity pay to employees which could be considered a comparable benefit to the stipends. Chief Rice advised that the stipends that would be distributed to the Fire Officers would not exceed \$7,500 which was budgeted in 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Eernisse to recommend the Village Board authorize the Fire Chief to approve stipends for additional duties of Fire Officers, not to exceed \$7,500. Motion carried.

ON-CALL PAY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Chief Rice explained that by law a Paramedic and an EMT must be on all first out EMS calls. This becomes challenging as the shifts needing coverage are non-day shifts (nights and weekends). By providing on-call pay to a Paramedic and an EMT, this would help attract individuals to these requirements, to ensure constant coverage. Chief Rice also advised that this on-call pay would not be in addition to hourly pay while on calls; this is on-call only pay. The proposed on-call pay would come out of the Part time Wages budget. In the interest of being transparent, Chief Rice would like this matter to be reviewed by the Village Board. These funds have been approved already as part of the 2016 budget process.

Motion by Commissioner Eernisse, seconded by Trustee Proefrock to recommend the Village Board approve on-call pay effective January 1, 2016 for a Paramedic on-call time at \$4.17 per hour, and an AEMT or EMT on-call time at \$2.09 per hour. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION

Chief Wenten advised that Officer Jarrod Ray has requested to donate two car seat/booster seats to the Police Department. These car seats are used, but in like-new condition. The car seats will be used by the Police Department for child transport needs, and will not be gifted to anyone since they are used.

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Harbeck to recommend the Village Board approve the donation of two car seat/booster seats by Jarrod Ray, with approximate value of \$50.00 each. Motion carried.

REPORT OF NOVEMBER BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wenten advised that the benchmarks are relatively consistent with 2014 benchmarks. Traffic stops are up from 2014. Self-initiated activity is also remaining consistent in spite of staffing challenges. Property crime has increased slightly over 2014, especially in the retail area on the east side of the Village. Chief Wenten relayed some recent events of attempted and completed retail theft from the Kohl's Department Store, Target Department Store and the Meijer Store, which lead to multiple charges, and used a significant amount of staffing for several hours.

Trustee Proefrock questioned what the open records request statistics consist of. Chief Wenten explained this includes requests for accident reports, incident reports, and audio/video requests that are received from citizens, as well as attorneys and the District Attorney's office. Chief Wenten is the Records Custodian for the Grafton Police Department; therefore, he reviews and processes all record requests and releases for content, following the release of information laws.

REPORT OF NOVEMBER BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice advised that EMS calls are up by about 83 calls over 2014. Two people on the Fire Department are now doing Fire Inspections. Chief Rice advised that re-inspections are taking more time to complete due to more thorough inspections and permits that need to be approved, which had not been done in the past. Chief Rice advised that some of the on-call daytime Fire Department personnel have been training with the Fire Inspector to assist in completing some of the basic inspections.

Chief Wenten shared that the Police Department just recently was inspected by the Fire Inspector and commented on the thoroughness and professionalism used by the Fire Inspector.

Commissioner Wolf commented on the increase of motor vehicle accidents in the Town of Grafton. Chief Rice explained that the intersection of Highway V and Highway W, and I43 in the Town of Grafton, are the main areas for accidents in the Township.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

November Police Department Overtime

Chief Wenten advised that complaint investigation overtime is increased due to some of the larger, more time consuming theft cases that have been occurring. The overtime for picnics/parades is lower over 2014 due to special events planning by Captain Gabrish, and now retired Sergeant Wilde. The status of overtime through December 5, 2015 is \$11,109 over the budgeted amount for 2015. This is due to Officer shortages from two resignations, a retirement, and several FMLA absences. Chief Wenten advised that the staff is continuing to step up and shoulder the burden of these shortages.

Chief Rice advised that there is nothing new to report on the 2015 purchase of a new brush truck. Chief Rice stated that the chassis is ordered and should be arriving soon. Chief Rice is working on rewriting the specifications for the truck, in an attempt to bring the price down.

Chief Rice let the commission know that he has been notified by Pierce, a prospective bidder for the ladder truck to be purchased in 2016, that there will be significantly increased pricing in late January. He has been meeting with key people to find a strategy for getting the best price on this ladder truck, equipped with what they need, and this has taken priority over the brush truck at this time.

Chief Wenten updated the Commission on the speed complaint on Grafton Avenue, which is an approximate one mile stretch of roadway. The speed radar device was placed in the area, and confirms that there is still a significant issue with vehicles speeding. Many options have been discussed for slowing traffic down, with the best option being an electronic speed sign. Chief Wenten advised that these can cost \$3,500 to \$5,000. Chief Wenten will examine the 2016 budget for any possible capital funds surplus for the purchase of a speed sign. During the past three months, 42 traffic stops have been conducted in that area, with 30 citations being issued.

Chief Wenten also advised there are three new in-squad and body worn camera systems in house now at the Police Department. The Department is currently in contact with the vendor for obtaining the additional storage needed for the audio/video files.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Commissioner Eernisse to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Motion carried.