

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

**AMENDED

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

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

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

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Corey Garbisch, 1007 Ninth Avenue, relayed that he was issued two winter parking citations last week when the daytime temperature was 70 degrees. Mr. Garbisch advised that he thought there should be discretion in issuing winter parking citations when the weather is warm and there is no snow in the forecast. Chief Wenten explained that the winter parking restrictions are in effect from December 1 to April 1, which is defined by Village Ordinance. Chief Wenten advised it is difficult to have discretion, as this is an ordinance and Officers are required to enforce the parking ordinance until April 1. Mr. Garbisch was given the option and explained how to schedule a parking citation review with the Village Attorney, who conducts these reviews one day per month. Mr. Garbisch also indicated that he is aware that he can call the Police Department for overnight parking permission on an individual night basis up to three times per month if he is unable to move his vehicles off the street. Trustee Antoine also suggested putting a reminder about the winter parking restrictions in the next Village Voice.

Mr. Garbisch also requested to know if some of the uncontrolled intersections in the Village of Grafton, such as Ninth Avenue and North Street, could have stop signs placed. Mr. Garbisch has observed many vehicles going thru these uncontrolled intersections with the drivers seemingly not observing for cross traffic. Chief Wenten indicated that he has done traffic surveys in this area, as well as other uncontrolled intersections in the Village, and has found that many of them do not have the volume of traffic that would be required to have stop signs placed. When volume is found to be high enough to consider placing a stop sign, this issue is discussed with the Village Engineer and a recommendation is forwarded to the Village Board. Chief Wenten stated that he recently submitted an article to the Village Newsletter that addresses driver responsibilities when approaching an uncontrolled intersection.

Genevieve Lowdermilk, N66 W5465 Cedar Court, Cedarburg, who is a Supervisor RN at the Aurora Cancer Care Center, 975 Port Washington Road, has a concern about patients who are receiving disabled parking citations, and that many of them are too sick and/or disabled to remember to place the disabled placard in their vehicle, and then after receiving the citation do not have the strength to respond to the Police Department to show proof of having the placard and complete the necessary paperwork to have the citation dismissed. Ms. Lowdermilk advised that the Cancer Care Center's parking lot is solely used by the patients responding there for treatment. Ms. Lowdermilk also inquired if Officers looked inside the vehicle before issuing the citation, as the placards sometimes fall down onto the floor or

between the seats of the vehicle. Ms. Lowdermilk requested if this parking lot could be exempt from issuing these types of citations. Chief Wenten advised that the Officers do check the interior of the vehicle for the parking placard before issuing the citation. The Police Department does not have the authority to exempt certain parking lots. Chief Wenten explained it is very difficult to determine the reason for the placard not being displayed and indicated that equally difficult to determine if the vehicle/operator actually does not have the required permit but just not displaying it. Ms. Lowdermilk advised that Aurora Health Care is taking a look at how many disabled parking spots they currently have, and possibly the amount can be reduced. Ms. Lowdermilk was also explained the procedure for persons receiving the disabled parking citations to respond to the Police Department to request dismissal of the citation.

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to approve the January 12, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION TO CREATE CHAPTER 16 ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING FEES

Grafton Building Inspector Tom Johnson explained that for the past three years the Inspection Department has been considering another level of certification for review of fire protection plans and inspections. It would be done via a third party contractor called FSCI, Elgin, Illinois. Due to constant changes in fire protection regulations and constant changes in related technology and materials, this level of certification is merited, as it would allow the Inspection and Fire Departments to have a more focused and professional outcome. The proposed fee change of \$50 would only be for fire alarms and sprinkler systems. Inspector Johnson advised that he has been reviewing other community's successes using FSCI, and obtained feedback from them that they are extremely satisfied with the results. Inspector Johnson also explained to the committee the process that takes place with the building plans while using FSCI. Inspector Johnson advised that he would like this ordinance change to take effect January 1, 2017.

Chief Rice added that the Fire Department supports the use of FSCI, and is appreciative of the fact that the Fire Department will receive the plans first for their input before moving on to the next step in the process.

**Trustee Harbeck noted that as a group they hope that Chief Rice and Building Inspector Johnson can work jointly on these inspections.

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Trustee Proefrock to recommend the Village Board approve an ordinance to create Chapter 16 Electrical and Plumbing fees. Motion carried 3 – 0 (Wolf, Eernisse - abstain).

ACCEPTANCE OF LAPTOP COMPUTER DONATION FROM REGAL BELOIT

Chief Rice explained that Firefighter/EMT Richard Lynch who is an employee of Regal Beloit in Grafton, being aware of the serious deficiencies with the Training Room computer at the Fire Department, spoke to his managers at Regal Beloit and was able to obtain a donated HP Envy Laptop for the Fire Department. This computer with Windows installed is valued at approximately \$750. Chief Rice shared that the Fire Department had a plaque made up to award Regal Beloit for this donation.

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to recommend the Village Board approve the donation of one HP Envy Convertible laptop to the Grafton Fire Department by Regal Beloit and their employee Richard Lynch. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION FROM NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL FOUNDATION

Chief Wenten explained that Grafton Reserve Officer John Wozniak had applied for a monetary donation to be granted to the Grafton Police Department Reserve Officer program through Northwestern Mutual Foundation Volunteer Support Program, which would be used for purchasing equipment and providing training for the Grafton Police Reserves. Northwestern Mutual Foundation awarded this grant in the amount of \$500. Chief Wenten advised that Sergeant Sean Fuerstenberg, who took over responsibility of the Reserve Officer program when Sergeant Wilde retired, is exploring ways to provide more training and equipment to the Reserve Officers, who volunteered 900 hours in 2015.

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to recommend the Village Board approve the donation of \$500 awarded to the Grafton Police Department on behalf of the Reserve Officer Program by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation Volunteer Support Program. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

Chief Wenten acknowledged that the Police Department's annual report is very comprehensive. Chief Wenten stated that he is very proud of the Police Department staff and is always honored to talk about the accomplishments of the Department. In summary, 2015 showed significant staffing shortages with the resignation of two Officers and the retirement of one Sergeant. Even with these shortages, Officers stayed busy, with calls for service and self-initiated duties remaining at or above previous year levels. Chief Wenten shared that a survey was conducted manually, outlining statistics for calls involving east side corridor businesses, which showed a steady growth in calls for service in this area, particularly theft cases and accidents. Also noted was that the Police Department has not added a new Officer since 2006, yet calls for service have continued to increase with this continued growth which brings additional activity to area, as well as increased traffic. Overall, Officers are continuing to be proactive in all their duties which is evidenced in the annual report. Chief Wenten stated that he recently received the six month summary of accident reports as provided by the State of Wisconsin and Grafton has approximately four times the number of traffic accidents in parking lots as any other jurisdiction in Ozaukee County.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT – 2015

Chief Rice advised that call volume continues to increase each year. Chief Rice said this is partially due to new ways in which people are using the medical services professional. The Division Chief who began employment in 2015 is working out well. There are several new employees with the Village of Grafton Department of Public Works and Water Utility who are now responding to calls during their work day, which is working out well for the Fire Department. Chief Rice advised that he expects to see an increase in calls contributing to the opening of the Village Pointe Commons which will be opening this year.

REPORT OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wenten advised that our two newest Police Officers, Cody Manders and Peter Morton, have completed their Field Training and are now working on their own. Chief Wenten is very pleased with how they have developed professionally and have fit in very well. Traffic citations and property crimes, specifically retail thefts, have increased over this time last year. At this time the Police Department does not have an Officer completing car seat checks. Since Officer Brinkman resigned last fall, we are still searching and evaluating which Officer would be a good replacement. Business checks have remained consistent. There has been a decrease this year in the number of involuntary commitments.

REPORT OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice advised that fire calls have increased for this year compared to last year, and EMS calls have decreased for this same time period. He has been noticing several days of high volume activity though, such as 7 or 8 calls per day. Overall Chief Rice advised that there are no remarkable changes.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

January and February Police Department Overtime

Chief Wenten advised that overtime is now on the decline. Two new Officers are on the schedule now, having completed Field Training. Chief Wenten advised that our third Officer candidate which is a replacement for Sergeant Wilde who retired in December, has been recommended, and the Department is awaiting his background and testing to be completed. If all goes well, the third Officer candidate could be starting Field Training very soon.

Chief Wenten wanted to make the Commission aware a recent parking situation that was brought to the Department's attention. There is a public parking lot that was purchased by the Grafton CDA on the corner of Bridge Street and 13th Avenue. Department of Public Works (DPW) requested the Police Department to begin enforcing the overnight parking restrictions to vehicles parked overnight in this parking lot, which would assist DPW with snow removal operations which are generally conducted during the early morning hours. Several citizens who received parking citations advised that they were told that they could receive parking permits which would allow them to park overnight in this parking lot. Chief Wenten has researched this situation and has found that an agreement as part of the sale was put in place that two parking permits would be issued to the previous owner of the property. Chief Wenten is seeking guidance on the appropriate forum/authority that this issue be discussed at Public Safety Commission or CDA. Chief Wenten further that stated as he was researching this issue and discussing it with some of the affected citizens, the request for additional parking permits be issued. Chief Wenten agreed that overnight parking in this lot would be a responsible option for bar owners whose patrons may need to find alternate arrangements for travel, rather than driving impaired. Chief Wenten will continue to coordinate efforts to resolve this issue.

Trustee Harbeck requested an update on the body worn cameras. Chief Wenten advised that the new body worn cameras have not been deployed yet; however, the squad cameras have been installed which include both front of squad and back seat video which is a very effective tool. Video is maintained for a minimum of 120 days but usually closer to one year. The Police Department has recently quadrupled the data storage for this video footage. Chief Wenten will be presenting the Commission with a display of the body worn camera footage when it is all operational.

Chief Wenten shared with the commission a solar speed sign that he located for a cost of approximately \$2,500. This item has not been budgeted by the Police Department; however, Chief Wenten advised that this is the best price he has seen for an item such as this. Chief Wenten advised that later in the year, there is a possibility that there could be some funds left in the budget that could cover part of this cost, which would only be possible if some of the Police Department's small equipment items can be obtained at a further reduced price than anticipated. Chief Wenten was invited to attend the next Finance Committee meeting to talk about the possibility of receiving some funding from the Village for this item.

Trustee Harbeck requested an update on the status of the new ladder truck. Chief Rice advised that the Fire Department is in a holding pattern at this time with the order of the truck. The order has been placed, and the truck will likely be built this fall, with a possible finish date in January 2017. Chief Rice also advised that the chassis for the brush truck has not arrived yet.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.