

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

The Public Safety Commission was called to order by Chair Lisa 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, and Administrative Assistant Clarissa Allen

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Randy Gehrke, 1976 Cedar Drive, and Niki Schmidt, 1736 Manchester Drive, attended the meeting to request additional signage or an overhead flashing warning light to notify motorists of a crosswalk at the location of Falls Road and Cedar Drive. Mr. Gehrke advised that vehicles traveling westbound on Falls Road are driving at a high rate of speed due to a decline in the roadway in that area. Ms. Schmidt also added that there are many children, families and dog walkers also using that area of roadway to access Kennedy School and the Grafton Library. They advised that last year the crosswalk was painted by Department of Public Works, however, it has since faded and is not easy to see. Mr. Gehrke also inquired about having rumble strips cut into the roadway, or having an overhead flashing warning light installed at the crossing.

Chief Wenten advised that a speed study had been conducted in that area in the recent past, confirming that westbound traffic is moving fast, most likely due to the decline on Falls Road, leading to the area of Cedar Drive. Chief Wenten also advised that there had been discussion with the School District in prior years, with changes being made to the bussing routes to decrease the number of students who would need to access that area to walk to school. Chief Wenten advised that, at this time, he can have the covert radar device installed in the area to monitor key times of the day for traffic volume and speeds and then issue directed patrol for the area, which may assist in slowing the traffic down. Chief Wenten explained that the use of rumble strips would not be desirable for residential areas due to the noise they create.

Trustee Harbeck advised that possibly the crosswalk can be repainted. Trustee Proefrock acknowledged that this crossing is a hazard also due to the fact that there is no sidewalk on the south side of the road. Trustee Proefrock did advise that he regularly sees Officers on patrol in the area, and that a possible solution would be some signage indicating that there is a blind crosswalk ahead.

Chief Wenten advised that he will have speed data available at the next Public Safety Commission meeting, which will be obtained from the covert radar box that he will have placed there.

MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Trustee Antoine to approve the June 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF JUNE BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wenten advised that there is an increase in citations, written warnings and traffic stops. The Department has two newer Officers who have completed field training and Officer Eberhardt will be completing field training in the beginning of August. Chief Wenten advised that Aurora Medical Center continues to require a significant amount of manpower due to commitments, assisting other agencies which can include other Law Enforcement agencies bringing prisoners or patients to the hospital, as well as Social Services dealing with possible commitments and voluntary commitments. Chief Wenten relayed to the Commission that several recent calls for service resulted in all day shift manpower being engaged in calls for the entire shift, including two Police Captains and the Chief of Police. Chief Wenten's concern is that when all manpower are engaged in calls for service, there is no manpower to provide proactive policing, such as enforcing speed complaints, or special enforcement that citizens and businesses are requesting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – QUARTERLY BENCHMARKS

Chief Wenten referred to the above discussion regarding benchmark measurements.

REPORT OF JUNE BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice reviewed the Fire Department's benchmarks for June and the second quarter of 2016. Chief Rice advised that the amount of calls are slightly increased over 2015 for this period, by 35 calls. The Fire Department has been assisting Cedarburg Fire Department 2-3 times per week, providing mutual aid for ambulance service. Chief Rice advised that Fire Inspections are increased from what were anticipated. Chief Rice believes this is due to having a professional Fire Inspector conducting inspections which then at times requires more re-inspections to be conducted. Chief Rice also advised there were no major fires or incidents in the second quarter of 2016.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – QUARTERLY BENCHMARKS

Chief Rice referred to the above discussion regarding benchmark measurements.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

JUNE POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME

Chief Wenten advised that overtime is almost doubled over what it was last year at this time. Chief Wenten explained that Officers are maxed out on their comp banks and in some situations cannot get time off due to manpower shortage, so they are not using their comp time and are forced to take overtime in pay. Chief Wenten advised that overtime is up for OWI arrests over last year at this time, partially due to the OWI Task Force which is a county wide task force that Officers can sign up to work during their off time. Some of the overtime from this Task Force is offset by a grant which was obtained by Ozaukee County. Chief Wenten also noted that overtime is up for Training over 2015 due to a specialized week long Crisis Intervention Training that three Officers attended, which was a 40 hour training. There have been several significant events such as a sexual assault case and the Hampton Inn event, which are reflected in June's overtime cost. Chief Wenten also showed the Commission an example of the Officer's schedule for June, showing the shift changes that

are being used to aid in reducing overtime, explaining that every option is being exercised to keep overtime at a minimum. Chief Wenten has also discussed the overtime challenges with the Finance Director and the Village Administrator, keeping them aware of the situation.

Chief Wenten advised the Commission that the ability to get Reserve Officers to volunteer at events in the Village is diminishing due to the time of year, family commitments and a lot of the functions being on weekends when they already have other commitments. As a result, the Police Department has been assigning Officers to work at these events, incurring overtime.

Trustee Harbeck and the Commission wished to express their appreciation for the members of the Grafton Police Department and their commitment to the profession, especially during the events of the last two weeks. Chief Wenten advised that many citizens and visitors to Grafton have also expressed through letters, thank you cards and food brought to the department, their thanks and appreciation for the Department and this has been very appreciated by the staff.

Chief Wenten and Chief Rice both spoke about a meeting they attended today involving Community Development. They both expressed concern about how the additional facilities and apartment complexes currently occupying the Village and several new complexes opening soon, can affect their respective departments. There is additional traffic, increased rescue calls which both police and fire respond to and increased calls for service in general. Chief Wenten and Chief Rice both asked the Commission if more consideration can be given to study the impact of these facilities on the police and fire departments. Chief Wenten added that the police department has not increased its size since 2006, however the Village has grown tremendously, and at times the police department does not have the manpower to devote to proactive policing. Chief Wenten also pointed out that although Grafton's population is similar to Cedarburg and Port Washington, the communities are much different in that Grafton's population during business hours is significantly increased due to businesses and retail areas making Grafton a destination for many consumers.

Chief Wenten also updated the Commission on the county purchase of radio consoles for all agencies in the county. Chief Wenten advised that the county board recently passed a resolution approving the county to purchase all radio equipment and consoles for the upcoming radio upgrade. Part of the resolution included leaving open for discussion a possible user fee that the county will assess the various communities within the county. Chief Wenten wanted the Commission to be aware that this discussion could be on the horizon again. Trustee Harbeck thanked Chief Wenten for updating the Commission, and has requested that the Commission members be notified of any upcoming meetings regarding this, so they can attend.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Commissioner Eernisse to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.