

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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, and Joe Eernisse

Commissioner excused: Bob Wolf

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

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

David and Jean Mueller, 1446 Apple Blossom Lane, explained that they live in the Town of Grafton and frequently walk along Highway O/North Green Bay Road, to get to the Interurban Trail, which is north of Hickory Street. They report that walking is dangerous in this area due to the fact that there is no sidewalk, and a very minimal area to walk off the shoulder of the road, as well as no pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Hickory Street and North Green Bay Road. Jean Mueller reports being nearly struck by passing vehicles on several occasions while walking. They also advised that children use this area for walking and bicycling to school and the outdoor pool. Jean and David Mueller both report that the shoulder is poorly maintained, and they feel that vehicles are exceeding the 25 mph speed limit in the area. Chief Wenten confirmed that the area in question is both in the Village and the Town of Grafton, and the conditions are as stated by the Mueller's. Chief Wenten also added that there is a very narrow bike lane that abuts right onto the traffic lane, which also does not offer much room to passing vehicles. This bike lane is for bicycles traveling northbound on North Green Bay Road. Trustee Harbeck suggested that the Mueller's contact the Department of Public Works and the Town of Grafton to possibly request a sidewalk in the area. Trustee Harbeck also advised that she would speak with Amber Thomas of the Department of Public Works, and then follow up with the Mueller's to discuss a possible solution. Chief Wenten advised he will place the radar recording device in this area, and will provide some traffic analysis, at the next Public Safety meeting.

Kathleen McGlone, owner of Slow Pokes located at 1229 12th Avenue, requested to have 12th Avenue in front of her store south to Bridge Street, posted as two hour parking. Ms. McGlone reported that currently the block that her store is located on does not have a time limit restriction and she finds that many people who work in the area are parking in front of her store all day. Ms. McGlone advised that this is negatively affecting customers from shopping at her store because this is a very busy stretch of the downtown area, and her customers have been reporting to her that they are unable to find a place to park. Ms. McGlone advised that she does have parking in a rear parking lot behind her store, however it is difficult to maneuver into the lot due to a large tree that is directly next to the driveway. Ms. McGlone also advises that the area directly across the street from her store on the east side of 12th Avenue is marked as two hour parking. Chief Wenten feels it is reasonable to post this area

as two hour parking. After further review of the parking ordinance for this location, it is found to be two hour parking. Department of Public Works will be contacted and requested to post as such. Ms. McGlone also inquired about receiving assistance from the Village for removal of the large tree next to the stores driveway. Trustee Harbeck advised her she should contact Department of Public Works with this request.

Deanna Gehrke, 1976 Cedar Drive, is following up on request for extra signage for the pedestrian crosswalk at Cedar Drive and Falls Road. Chief Wenten advised that he placed the radar recording device in that area which showed that the vast majority of vehicles traveling in that area are traveling within 10 mph of the posted speed limit. Chief Wenten also shared that during a 12 day time frame, the police department conducted directed patrol in the 1600 block of Falls Road 39 times, resulting in 15 traffic stops, which resulted in 7 traffic citations and 8 written warnings for speed. Chief Wenten advised that squads are patrolling the area as frequently as they can. Trustee Harbeck advised that she did inquire with Department of Public Works about the possibility of painting the crosswalk with a reflective type paint, and also painting diagonal stripes in the crosswalk. Department of Public Works will be checking into this. There was also a discussion between committee members and Ms. Gehrke about different types of signage that would be available for these types of intersections. There are some safety issues as well with posting crosswalk signs in the area, giving young children the false sense that vehicles would automatically stop because there is a posted sign. Trustee Proefrock mentioned the crosswalk signs on Mequon Road, near the school and how visible they are. Chief Wenten stated that he would take a look to determine if this type of sign might serve the situation. Chief Wenten feels that the safest option at this time is to use the crosswalk area at 16th Avenue and Falls Road, which the committee agreed with.

MINUTES

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

CHAPTER 9.44 - UPDATE OF VAGRANCY AND LOITERING MUNICIPAL CODE

Chief Wenten advised that this update was brought to him by Captain Gabrish, and is a proactive method of dealing with issues of vagrancy, trespassing, and loitering. Chief Wenten shared that several years ago there were some situations occurring in Village parks involving loitering and activity that could be associated with drug related activities. This ordinance gives the police department specific definitions to use to determine if any person loitering or driving in any public place, could be doing so for the purpose of engaging in illegal activity. Trustee Harbeck inquired if this ordinance is being updated because there is currently a concern about these types of situations occurring; Chief Wenten advised is strictly a **proactive** ordinance with tools to address issues before they may become a problem. Trustee Antoine inquired if any of this type of activity has been observed in any of the parking lots of our retail areas in Grafton; Chief Wenten advised that there has not been any.

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Trustee Proefrock to add subsection 9.44.060 Loitering – Illegal Drug Activity, to the title of Chapter 9.44, and to add subsection 9.44.060 Loitering – Illegal Drug Activity, to Chapter 9.44. Motion carried.

CHAPTER 10.36 – HICKORY STREET PARKING

Chief Wenten advised that there is a significant traffic congestion/hazard occurring in the morning and afternoon hours on Hickory Street in the area of the John Long Middle School, 700 Hickory Street, associated with the delivery and pick up of students attending both the middle school and Woodview Elementary School, located at 600 5th Avenue. Chief Wenten described the driveway for John Long Middle School as a one-way horseshoe type driveway. Currently there are no restrictions on parking in the area of the exit drive. Due to the diminished field of vision it is being requested that parking be prohibited for a distance of 40 feet both to the east and west of the western exit drive for the John Long Middle School.

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to prohibit parking for a distance of 40 feet east of the western exit drive, and 40 feet west of the western exit drive on the curb line for 700 Hickory Street, John Long Middle School. Motion carried.

REPORT OF JUNE BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wenten advised that there is an increase in traffic accidents. Many of the accidents are occurring in parking lots. Violent crimes have increased over this time last year as well. There has also been an increase in lobby assists, largely due to more frequent use of the community room. Trustee Harbeck has requested a further break down for the lobby assists showing how many people are using the community room, and lobby assists by shift. This will be recorded starting with the month of September benchmarks. Chief Wenten also advised the commission that during the July and August time period, the department assisted other police agencies 7 times at Aurora Medical Center with uncooperative prisoners. There were also 38 welfare checks requested during this same time period, which require at least two officers to respond to investigate, and can be time consuming to gather all investigative information to response and disposition of the call.

REPORT OF JUNE BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice advised that Fire and EMS related calls have increased over this time in 2015. Chief Rice advised that Fire Inspections have been consistent, and he would like to add a new category in 2017 titled “Other Inspections”, which would cover some of the other types of inspections that the Fire Department is requested to conduct. Overall, Chief Rice advised that there is nothing significant to report.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

JULY/AUGUST POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME

Chief Wenten advised that overtime is at \$93,000 year to date, and \$72,000 was budgeted for the year. Chief Wenten advised that so far year to date, there have been 498 shift reassignments for patrol personnel, which is a tool used to keep overtime at the lowest possible. Chief Wenten stated that the newer officers are viable and conducting patrol duties on their own. Chief Wenten also shared that there could possibly be two retirements from the department in 2017. Trustee Proefrock inquired as to the advantages and disadvantages of excessive overtime, and/or hiring additional officers. Chief Wenten advised that by paying overtime that is the face value of what is being paid as there are no benefits being paid. Overtime can be situational, and could go down depending on staffing levels and scheduling. The biggest disadvantage to the overtime is that there is a risk of Dispatcher and/or Officer burnout when it continues for extended periods of time. Chief Wenten pointed out that

Dispatchers, as well as Officers are shouldering a significant burden of extended shifts and shift reassignments due to staffing shortages.

Chief Wenten discussed the budget highlights for 2017. There is an increase in the communications budget in the amount of \$3,200 for lease and maintenance of the Emergency Medical Dispatch software program, and mandated training recertification, for the Telecommunicators. The fuel budget has diminished for 2017 due to the squad sport utility vehicles getting better gas mileage than some of the previous squads being used. Overtime for operations has been increased to \$95,000 for 2017 in anticipation of replacing two long time officers, and the gap in between their retirement and the hiring and training of two new officers.

Trustee Antoine inquired about the possibility of purchasing a solar speed sign with leftover funds in the 2016 budget. Chief Wenten advised that there is a tight margin of funds remaining for 2016, and if possible a sign will be purchased.

Trustee Harbeck advised that it is felt there should be discussion about adding more officers to the department due to the increase in growth from retail and the traffic and crime that brings to the Village, as well as numerous senior living complexes, apartment buildings, and the medical center. Discussion took place between Commission members and Chief Wenten regarding some of the staffing challenges taking place on the department and the types of calls for service requiring all personnel to respond for extended periods of time, which could be effecting proactive policing of the Village. Chief Wenten explained that the Village can be very proud that the most frequently expressed safety concern in the Village is traffic and pedestrian issues. Chief Wenten advised that the number of sworn officers has not increased since 2008. Trustee Harbeck advised that the Commission members should consider approaching the board regarding the need for addition officers.

Chief Rice discussed the budget highlights for 2017 for the Fire Department, advising that the budget remains largely the same as in 2016. Chief Rice did advise that the EMS revenue is estimated to increase to \$40,000 for 2017, however does depend on Medicare and insurance reimbursement. Chief Rice stated that the new billing service is also helping with collecting more revenue. The part time wages has been increased to \$20,000 for 2017 due to gaps in coverage on weekends and some weeknights. Chief Rice advised that the department has lost a lot of the top paramedics in the past few months due to resignations for other career opportunities. Chief Rice advised that the labor pool budget has increased. Chief Rice explained that the Department of Public Works does repairs on the fleet as well as the building, and that they do a tremendous job for the department. Chief Rice advised that there could be a sizeable decrease in the workers comp insurance of approximately \$27,000 for 2017. Chief Rice also advised that he is requesting new training room tables and chairs, new turn out gear, new pagers for all staff, and physical fitness equipment.

Trustee Harbeck questioned the \$20,000 part time wages category. Chief Rice confirmed that this would be used to encourage current, local employees, to fill in gaps in coverage on weekends. Chief Rice advised that many fire departments are experiencing challenges with staff coverage, due to the positions being volunteer, and the volunteers being so involved in many outside activities during the weekends and evenings, making it difficult to get coverage for fire and EMS. Chief Rice expects the future cooperation from neighboring communities to help fill staff shortages. Chief Rice stated that he is trying to balance keeping a well-run

department with members who are excited about being in the fire and EMS services, and keep their interest in the department, and at the same time competing with after school and social activities. *Trustee Harbeck wanted it noted that Chief Rice was asked about how the search for volunteers was coming along, and Chief Rice said good. *Trustee Harbeck also wanted it noted that Chief Rice was asked if he has spoken with any other fire departments about the way they attract volunteers, and Chief Rice said yes.

Chief Wenten wanted to update the Commission regarding a recent lightning strike which occurred at the police department on September 6, 2016. The strike damaged fuses on both main radio consoles, rendering them out of service. Also burned out during the strike was a panel in the actuator board which operates the Village emergency sirens, and the Department of Public Works radio base, as well as a blown out battery on the 2nd Avenue emergency siren and several remote door opener panels. Chief Wenten advised he is anticipating high dollar amount repair bills for these repairs, and will be submitting them to the Village's insurance for possible consideration of payment.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Proefrock, seconded by Trustee Antoine to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.