

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

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

Committee members present: Jim Grant, David Liss and Lisa Harbeck

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten, Building Inspector Tom Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None

2011 CODE CHANGES / CHAPTER 16 / BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Building Inspector Tom Johnson reviewed proposed changes to the Nuisance, Building and Construction, and Weights and Measures ordinances. The Inspection Department has experienced situations where people are requesting building permits long after the work has been completed. A majority of these requests involved properties under contract for sale. Mr. Johnson advised the Village needs additional tools to deter this from occurring as frequently. He proposed raising the penalty fee for this situation.

Mr. Johnson also requested penalty increases in file reviews, which use large blocks of unfunded staff time and resources.

The Weights and Measures program was discussed. Mr. Johnson has recently seen blatant disregard for on-time renewal. In 2010, both the Inspection and Police Departments used resources to deal with businesses who failed to comply on time. Notices for renewal are mailed out 2 months prior to the deadline. He requested a penalty code be added for late renewal of the Weights and Measures licenses.

It was discussed that these penalties have not been increased in over 15 years.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board approve the ordinance changes to sections 8.40.010, 16.04.110, 16.08.230, 16.12.270, 25.04.080, and 25.04.090, as presented. Approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.36.010 / NO PARKING AT ANY TIME

Chief Wenten advised that a resident requested consideration for no parking on Hickory Street at 11th Avenue. Because of the curve of road at that location, vehicles have to creep into the street to turn eastbound.

As Hickory Street is a main artery going to the schools, Chief Wenten also requested the yield sign on 11th Avenue and Hickory Street be changed to a stop sign. Committee members were in agreement with these requests.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve an ordinance amending Section 10.36.010 / No parking at any time, as presented. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve an ordinance amending Section 10.32.020 / Yield Intersections, as presented. Approved unanimously.

POLICE OVERTIME COMPARISON / JANUARY

Chief Wenten identified that an unusual amount of officers were out sick in January, causing a slight increase over last year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS / JANUARY

Certain Police Department statistics will be reported monthly. Chief Wenten discussed the amount of time spent on emergency commitments. He advised that from January 1, 2011 to February 13, 2011, the Department investigated/assisted with seven instances at Aurora Medical Center involving possible emergency detention criteria. A review of the time spent on those calls for service was conservatively put at 17 hours. As the emergency room staff is mandated to report possible child abuse, domestic violence, and psychological issues, even if they did not occur in the Village, Grafton officers must respond to assess the situation. Trustee Harbeck agreed, stating the hospital will continue to be a time investment for police personnel. Chair Grant asked that Chief continue to monitor the amount of time spent at Aurora Medical Center.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Update / Completion date of pedestrian crossing signal / 13th Avenue and Washington Street

The HAWK pedestrian crossing signal is up; however, it has not been activated.

Police Department / End of year fund balances

Chair Grant requested the dollar amount of excess funds remaining in the 2010 Police Department operating budget. That figure will be available at the March meeting.

Police Department / Shared service list

Chief Wenten briefed the Committee on a variety of services shared with other communities. The county-wide pursuit policy was a very significant accomplishment, with all Ozaukee County agencies in agreement with the final policy.

Cedarburg Police Department and Grafton Police Department partnered in a shared software policy. One server is shared by both agencies, and all records are shared. We are now looking forward to share software with all county agencies.

There is sharing of IT personnel, which pays dividends by lessening costs.

The Drug unit and SRT unit is a combination of county officers.

Chair Grant asked if Chief Wenten would contact the local media with this information, believing that amount and quality of services shared would be of great interest to the citizens.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Approved unanimously.