

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center by Chairperson Adrian.

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jerry Adrian and Tom Mooney and citizen members Kathy Lyons, Ken Machtan, and Barbara Zabawa.

Committee Member Absent: Sandy Bakk and Rich Staley

Staff Present: Fire Rescue Chief Chris Dennis; Charles Di Piazza, Emergency Management Director; Police Chief Craig Sherven; and Dawn Graham, Deputy Clerk.

Others Present: none.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. Sam Martino appeared to discuss item 5c.

3. STAFF REPORTS.

- a. **Fire/EMS Department.** Chief Dennis reported on department activities. Interviews by the PFC for 24/48 hour EMTs are on Saturday, so he hopes to have a new hire by end of April. Refresher courses are almost complete. June is re-licensure. New tender is out due to need of a replacement shift, so the old tender is in service. Car 3 was removed due to issues preparing for replacement vehicle to transfer equipment.
- b. **Police Department.** Chief Sherven reported on department activities, including a case of an officer assisting the county in a pursuit. Our officer was aware of mental illness reports on the subject. The Taser proved ineffective due to a puffy coat. The subject assaulted the officer and then choked him. It was de-escalated through talking and the incident was recorded on body cam. Unfortunately these are incidents that are not publicized in the media. One officer has resigned and conditional offers have been made to three candidates. The department is waiting to outfit three new vehicles. There will be a Village Board recognition of police Officers at the April 11 meeting.
- c. **Emergency Management.** Chuck Di Piazza submitted the Emergency Management report. He has completed village official training and is reviewing the emergency response plan. He is going to resume the Emergency Management Committee as well as attend meetings of the Lions Alert Committee. We have had one outdoor siren failure which has been repaired. Tank farm training was also completed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a Review and possible approval of the draft Minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting. Motion by Mooney, second by Zabawa carried 5-0 by acclamation to approve the draft Minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting. .

5. BUSINESS.

- a. **Update regarding proposal for convenience store/gas station at 4814 Freedom Ring Road, Madison.** A public meeting was held by the Madison Alder, realtor, engineer, potential buyer and architect. About forty residents, mainly from Madison, and Village Trustee and Committee members also attended. Trustee Adrian shared letter regarding traffic concerns and well proximity. Discussion revolved around aesthetics, response time for emergency services, potential for loitering, and the fact that it is already a high petty crime area. The neighborhood association was working with the Alder. No request had been filed with city yet, so this meeting occurred in anticipation. Madison is not as concerned about wells because they have several gas stations near residential wells. New technology for underground storage that warns of leaks was discussed. A minority of the group

supported the business. Several residents were against the development and wanted to be annexed. After City approval, it takes about 90 days for construction to begin. The potential buyer plans to submit for approval in April

- b. Report on Police Department Compliance with Use of Force Taskforce report recommendations.** Shortly after the incident in Ferguson, MO, the United Way and African American community leaders came to discuss this issue, and efforts intensified after the Tony Robinson shooting. Sadly, if they had consulted a local Police Department, they would have seen that these things were already being done here, instead of release their findings only to the media as a groundbreaking effort. Sherven highlighted a couple of items, the report asked to track use of force. And this is already something we do in our dept. The stats are then available on website. The report recommended body cams and in-car systems which we have been using for four years. Restorative justice programs were also recommended, which is a judge initiative and up to the court and board. There is a youth court in McFarland presently. In regards to its recommendation on recruitment, Sherven related that he has gone to great length to recruit a more diverse force, but is not getting responses from the community.
- c. Discussion regarding pedestrian safety.** Sam Martino reported that he checked with clerk regarding the number of registered dogs in the Village. With this increase in licenses over the past year, he has a suggestion that the Village require pedestrians, joggers, dog walkers, etc. to wear lights, vests, arm bands, dog leash lights, etc. He suggested selling items in conjunction with dog licenses or bicycle licenses. He also has concern over more visibility at crosswalk by high school, and stated that grants are available. While we don't really enforce bike licenses due to manpower, it might be beneficial to prepare a pamphlet on pedestrian safety at night. Maybe a civic group or school organization could be involved. Over last five years, only one accident occurred at dusk, so no large issues exist at this point. The pamphlet could also identify where people could purchase safety gear. Unsure if constitutionally the government could pass laws declaring what citizens are required to wear at night and even if so, it would not have manpower to enforce it. The best way to attack the issue may be education, provide information at bike rodeo, on website and in the Outlook. The Village has backed away from safety lighting at high school because we don't qualify for the grant as it is a county road and there is a historical lack of accidents at the site to justify awarding a grant.

6. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Machtan, second by Lyons and carried 5-0 by acclamation to adjourn the April 13, 2016 meeting of the Public Safety Committee at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Graham, Deputy Clerk