

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 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 Sandy Bakk, Kathy Lyons, Ken Machtan, and Rich Staley.

Committee Member Absent: Barbara Zabawa

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

Others Present: Al Gerl, Jr, Heather Raeck, Margaret Stewart, and Stewart Wilson.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. LICENSE HEARING.

- a. **Conduct hearing on the recommendation to deny the issuance of an Alcohol Beverage Operator's License for Stewart Wilson.**
- b. **Committee report to the Village Board on the recommendation regarding the approval or denial of an Alcohol Beverage Operator's License for Stewart Wilson.**

A hearing on the recommendation to deny the issuance of an Alcohol Beverage Operator's License for Stewart Wilson was conducted by the Public Safety Committee on April 13, 2016 at 6:31 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland, Wisconsin.

The hearing was conducted per McFarland Village Ordinance 11-67(d) (1) (2)(3)(4) and (5).

Public Safety Committee members present were Trustees Jerry Adrian & Thomas Mooney and citizen members Sandy Bakk, Kathy Lyons, Ken Machtan, and Rich Staley. Staff present was Fire/Rescue Chief Chris Dennis, Police Chief Craig Sherven, Emergency Management Director Charles Di Piazza and Deputy Clerk Dawn Graham. Others present were Al Gerl Jr, Heather Raeck, and Margaret Stewart.

Deputy Clerk Graham swore in Chief Sherven, who provided testimony and exhibits.

Chief Sherven presented the following additional exhibits:

Exhibit A. A copy of the initial "Application for an Alcohol Beverage Operator's License" and supporting materials completed by Stewart Wilson.

Exhibit B. A copy of the March 24 memo to the Public Safety Committee from Chief Craig Sherven, apprising them of his denial of the Alcohol Beverage Operator's License for Stewart Wilson and the reasons for this recommendation.

Exhibit C. A copy of the March 24, 2016 letter to Stewart Wilson from Deputy Clerk Dawn Graham notifying him of the denial and the hearing process.

Exhibit D. A copy of the April 7, 2016 letter to Stewart Wilson from Deputy Clerk Graham confirming the hearing date and process.

Chief Sherven presented the following testimony:

Chief Sherven described the role of the Police Department in recommending alcohol licenses. The Chief must follow Village Ordinances. The reason for the denial was a demonstrated history of infractions, including traffic and misdemeanor criminal. This goes to the level of trust and demonstrated fitness level

to hold an operator license. An important duty of an alcohol operator licensee is the exercise of judgment in over serving patrons and/or serving alcohol to minors. The last conviction was 2 ½ – 3 years prior.

Deputy Clerk Graham swore in Stewart Wilson, who provided testimony:

Mr. Wilson admitted that he had a bad past and made poor choices, mostly during the time he was married. He has since divorced and has been sober since 2011, during which time he went through alcohol treatment and anger management treatment, as well as an 18 month probation period. He is currently in the custody process for his 10 year old daughter. He has been employed with Kwik Trip for about two years, and has risen through their ranks quickly. He was transferred to the McFarland Kwik Trip about two months ago. It is a condition of continued employment to have the operator license. He enjoys his employment at Kwik Trip and this lack of license could hold back his advancement. He further described that what is on paper is not who he is now. He is hard worker and a genuine person who loves his job. He has a good support system of friends and family, who appeared at the hearing. He further declared that he would abide by any stipulations that the Committee would like to place on granting the license.

The hearing proceeded with discussion by the Committee.

Motion by Adrian, second by Machtan and carried 6-0 by acclamation to recommend to the Village Board the granting of the license with the condition that the applicant must notify the Village of any violations, and that if any violations occur, whether self-reported or otherwise discovered, the applicant forfeits the license immediately.

The remaining steps in this process were recited, including receipt of the hearing report and the right to appear and address the Village Board on May 9th if he so chooses. The hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

4. **STAFF REPORTS.**

- a. **Fire/EMS Department.** Chief Dennis reported on department activities. Staffing is currently down, but a new hire is anticipated in the near future. New volunteer interviews are being conducted and fire volunteers are reaching capacity. A grant was received for pediatric advanced ALS training. Another grant was received for smoke detector program. Chief Dennis reported on the water rescue on Lake Kegonsa. The victim was located within 45 minutes. During the initial one to two hours after a water incident, it is considered rescue mode and the County does not get involved. The County only does recovery. The rescue jurisdiction depends on the body of water.
- b. **Police Department.** Chief Sherven reported on department activities. Case numbers are down for March, and staffing is near full. Two officers should complete training in May and June. A conditional offer for a third officer has been extended. The budget is going well, just over in overtime and uniforms due to new hires. The Memorial Wall for Officer Copeland has been started. Local merchants are donating services for the wall. The Bowling for Boris fundraiser raised \$27,000 to cover travel expenses for the National Law Enforcement Memorial.
- c. **Emergency Management.** Chuck Di Piazza submitted the Emergency Management report. Di Piazza. He conducted weather spotting training for Lions and encouraged staff to take storm spotter training. He announced that this is severe weather training and two mock drills will occur at 1:45 and 6:55 p.m. Thursday, April 14. He has resurrected the Emergency Management Committee and they will meet on the fourth Wednesdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. The first meeting is April 27, 2016.

5. **BUSINESS.**

- a. **Action on report from Chairperson Adrian to Village Board regarding Police Department Compliance with Use of Force Taskforce recommendations presented at the last meeting.** Adrian distributed draft of response to Village Board. The Committee agreed that Adrian should submit the response to the Village Board.

- b. **Discussion and possible action Review and recommendation to the Village Board on a request from the McFarland Family Festival that a variance from the Village Code of Ordinances Sec. 20-59(b) be allowed for a 11:00 p.m. rather than 10:00 p.m. ending time for the Christman Amusements at the McFarland Family Festival on Friday, September 16, 2016 and Saturday, September 17, 2016 in the McFarland High School parking lot.** Motion by Adrian, second by Staley and carried 6-0 by acclamation to recommend to the Village Board approval of the request.
 - c. **Discussion regarding pedestrian safety crossings, lighting, & reflective materials and gridlock at Johnson Street(Re: Sam Martino appearance at February & March meetings).** The pedestrian crossings will be addressed working with engineers when Farwell Street is reconstructed, along with the pedestrian crossing at Broadhead and Milwaukee Streets. The gridlock at Johnson Street is now less than half the traffic volume as before the road was redirected, so it is not seen as a grave issue. Also, traffic patterns may shift depending on the outcome of the referendum to move the elementary campus to Holscher Road and Broadhead Street. The Committee discussed making brochures on pedestrian safety at night and having them available at places around the community, in the Village where pet and bike licenses are issued, at the bike rodeo, etc.
6. **ADJOURNMENT. Motion** by Machtan, second by Lyons and carried 6-0 by acclamation to adjourn the April 13, 2016 meeting of the Public Safety Committee at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Graham, Deputy Clerk