

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2009

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

Committee members present: Jim Grant, Sue Meinecke and David Liss.

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten, Community Activities Director John Safstrom, and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

REQUEST TO HOLD LUNAFEST

Sam Myhre, Senior Luna Manager, and Blake Klug, Jaycee Representative, were present to discuss their request to hold LunaFest on August 28-30, 2009. Mr. Klug stated the Jaycees are very involved in planning LunaFest and there will be a number of volunteers from their organization assisting with the event. An itinerary was reviewed by the committee.

Chair Grant inquired about parking, with Mr. Blake noting they have touched base with neighboring businesses (North Shore Bank, Herro building, Donahue Accounting, Verlo Mattress) who will allow parking during the festivities. The new Pick 'n Save parking lot would also be an option. Volunteers will be assisting with parking.

Chief Wenten advised that 11:30 p.m. was too late for the band to end. There were noise complaints stemming from the music in previous years. Security was discussed as well as clean up at the end of the event. Chair Grant asked if an officer would be needed on the grounds, with Chief Wenten responding if the proper amount of security is in place, no officer would be needed. Mr. Myhre noted they are hoping for 600-800 customers during peak times.

Chief Wenten informed Mr. Myhre and Mr. Klug to contact Captain Gabrish to work out the details of the event. This item will be placed on the May agenda for final approval.

GIRO D'GRAFTON BIKE RACE

Director John Safstrom was present to answer any questions on the Giro d'Grafton bike race. He indicated this event is now being organized by a private local nonprofit group, "Celebrate Grafton", of which he is a member. The bike and foot race will be held on June 20, 2009, with the same route as last year.

The Friday night event at the Paramount Plaza on June 19, 2009 was discussed. Director Safstrom advised this will be a family event with a fish fry and a fenced in area

where beer and soda will be served. There will be volunteers assisting people with crossing the streets, and personnel will be monitoring spectators on premise. Chief Wenten stated no additional police officers will be needed for the Friday night event.

Chair Grant requested a buffer zone between the rider course and the spectator line be placed around the Paramount Plaza turn during the race as a safety precaution.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Trustee Liss, to approve the Giro d’Grafton Professional Bike Race on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, 2009, in downtown Grafton. Approved unanimously.

POLICE OFFICER OVERTIME COMPARISON / MARCH

The overtime comparison is 50 percent lower compared to one year ago. Chief Wenten noted the department is fully staffed.

5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Chief Wenten explained changes to last year’s plan. Dispatch console furniture has been added for 2010 (primary console) and 2011 (secondary console). He explained equipment has sporadically been "piece-mealed" into the console. Additionally, the TIME system computer can be viewed by the public which is non-compliant with their security policy. The price is all inclusive, with over half the cost resulting from removal of the existing console and radio equipment, and reinstall of all equipment. This includes a new power supply.

An unmarked squad was added in 2010. This will replace a 2000 unmarked squad with approximately 100,000 miles.

Chief Wenten explained that due to the additional needs, he looked at ways to keep costs down, and in reviewing the current radio situation, he feels comfortable eliminating the portable and mobile radios for replacement in 2010 and 2011. The repairs have been within budget, and older portables have recently been replaced with re-furbished radios by the FCC.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to recommend the Finance Committee recommend the Village Board approve the 2010 – 2014 Police Department Capital Improvement Program, as presented. Approved unanimously.

BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS / JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

Chief Wenten highlighted the benchmark statistics. A decrease in citations was noted, with this being attributed to increases in emergency detentions, domestic incidents and property crimes, all of which take a large time investment. A large increase in cellular 911 calls was noted as a trend.

There was discussion on a civilian handling some issues now being handled by police officers. Chief Wenten will keep this in mind as a possibility in the future, but noted that most calls mandate a police officer responding.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Update / Washington Street and 13th Avenue pedestrian crossing

There was brief discussion on the crosswalk at Washington Street and 13th Avenue, with all present agreeing the only safe options are traffic signals or not allowing pedestrians to cross Washington Street. Chair Grant mentioned a grant being applied for by the Community Development Authority; however he was not excited about what is being offered. Committee members discussed an email they received that the state is considering a 4-lane highway from 5 Corners east through the Village.

Update / No trucking signs / Avenues south of Hickory Street

Chief Wenten informed the committee “No trucking” signs have been ordered and will be installed.

Home maintenance ordinance

Chair Grant advised the home maintenance ordinance issue has again been brought to his attention by Tom Haase, 1027 First Avenue. Chair Grant has noticed that some residents are disregarding their property by storing vehicles on the grass, and furniture and other “junk” items in their yard. The garbage containers being stored in front of residences was also brought up. He requested samples of other communities’ home maintenance ordinances for review.

Chief Wenten suggested that the current code be reviewed to see what is currently in place, and work with Tom Johnson, Building Inspector on current issues. Committee members agreed this should be the first step to resolve this concern.

Miscellaneous items

Chief Wenten advised he has been discussing grant opportunities with Administrator Hofland. Currently, any operating grant monies go into the General Fund, and expenditures associated with the grant increase the operating budget which places our eligibility for the Expenditure Restraint Program in jeopardy. The Police Department has submitted for a grant which would pay 100 percent salary and benefits for a police officer for 3 years. Administrator Hofland has petitioned State Assembly members to allow the grant to not impact eligibility for the Expenditure Restraint Program.

The Police Department is requesting two 15 minute customer parking in the front police station lot for their customers.

A \$500.00 grant was received from Northwestern Mutual Insurance on behalf of their employee John Wozniak. This grant was received due to Mr. Wozniak's volunteer hours as a police reserve officer. It was noted that this is the seventh time the Grafton Police Department has received this grant. Chair Grant requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Northwestern Mutual from the Village.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Approved unanimously.