

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2010

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 Sue Meinecke

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten, Grafton Volunteer Fire Chief John Place, Building Inspector Tom Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Brenda Blodgett, 1282 Creekside Lane, was present to discuss door to door solicitors in Grafton. She advised her family has lived in Grafton for 5 years. She loves the community; however, she has never experienced so many solicitors, which she estimated between 2 to 4 a week. She is certain that many of them do not live within a 20 mile radius, and many solicit after dark, which she finds annoying and unsafe. Mrs. Blodgett advised that many are non denominational bible groups. She had been given a copy of the current ordinance relating to this issue.

Chief Wenten stated all groups are required to register. An option he recommended is to post a “no solicitors” sign in her front window. This will give the Police Department a greater ability to deliver action. If there is an indication the solicitor is not registered, Chief Wenten asked that the Police Department be contacted immediately.

There was discussion on having an ordinance that would limit soliciting or prohibit soliciting in specific neighborhoods. Chief Wenten responded that this would cause a denial to groups such as the girl scouts, school efforts, and community groups.

Chair Grant requested an opinion from the Village Attorney on the following revisions to the current direct seller’s ordinance:

- Can we limit solicitors to only Grafton based groups
- Limit hours to 7:00 p.m. instead of 9:00 p.m.
- Increase penalty

Mrs. Blodgett thanked the Committee for their time.

SIGNAGE REQUEST / BOBOLINK AVENUE AND BRIDGE STREET INTERSECTION

Lisa Strebel, 1299 Bobolink Avenue, was present to request a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Bobolink Avenue and Bridge Street. She advised that Bobolink Avenue is becoming a major thoroughfare, and will only get busier with the installation of traffic signals at Keup Road and Hwy. 60. Currently there is a yield sign on Bridge Street which is not easily seen in summer due to foliage, and people are speeding through this intersection. There are a large number of children in the neighborhood. She presented Chief Wenten with supporting materials for her request along with information on a “Keep kids alive, drive 25” program.

Chief Wenten advised of only one accident at that intersection in a 5 year period.

A resident at 228 W. Birch Street asked that the intersection of Bridge Street and Audubon Avenue also be addressed for signage.

Chair Grant advised these intersections will be reviewed and placed on the May agenda for review.

GRAFTON VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF JOHN PLACE

Fire Chief John Place introduced himself as the new fire chief, advising he has been with the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department for 23 years. He reviewed the number of fire, rescue and mutual aid calls for 2009. He also briefed the Committee on MAVIS, which is a statewide agreement of support for other communities during major calls. Currently there are 80 members of the Fire Department, 50 of those being active. There is an active recruitment for EMT's, especially during the day. One of his goals is to reduce response time for calls, and this is being accomplished. Chief Place voiced his pleasure on the working relationship the Fire Department has with the Police Department, which was reaffirmed by Chief Wenten.

Chair Grant thanked the volunteers on the Fire Department for the level of service they continue to provide.

REQUEST TO HOLD 2010 RIDE FOR THE ARTS

Chief Wenten advised of a request for a Ride for the Arts bike race on Sunday, June 6, 2010. The group is requesting assistance at the intersection of Washington Street and North Port Washington Road from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 12:30 a.m. Chief Wenten recommended this event be approved.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to recommend the Village Board authorize the Ride of the Arts to travel through the Village of Grafton on June 6, 2010. Approved unanimously.

5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Chief Wenten reviewed changes in the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan. The unmarked squad was shifted from 2010 to 2011. Resurfacing of the Police Station driveway was added in 2011, as well as a video storage system and a recorder and call checks. Seven laptops for the squads were included in 2012. Radio equipment was taken out in 2010, and the 4 x 4 squad was moved from 2012 to 2014.

Committee members were comfortable with the changes. Chair Grant appreciated the level of research put into these recommendations.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Finance Committee recommend Village Board approval of the 2011 – 2015 Police Department Capital Improvement Program, as presented. Approved unanimously.

REPORT OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

The benchmarks through March 31, 2010 were reviewed. Chief Wenten noted the decrease in criminal complaints, domestic violence and emergency detentions over last year and was pleased by this decrease in calls.

POLICE OVERTIME COMPARISON / FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2010

The overtime reports were favorably reviewed.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Chair Grant suggested the placement of a sign, as you enter Grafton, saying something to affect that Grafton is a pro-active crime prevention community. He commented that this approach would be a benefit to our community. Chief Wenten will consider this signage.

A request for signage at Maple Street and Eleventh Avenue was briefly discussed and will be reviewed.

Chief Wenten believed the HAWK signal will be installed in late spring.

Building Inspector Tom Johnson briefed the Committee on three residences where equipment is being kept in the yards. He will be authoring a letter to these homeowners, giving them a deadline to remove same.

Chair Grant asked if there were physical requirements for Police Officers, with Chief Wenten advising this is only done at time of hire.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Approved unanimously.