

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Lisa Harbeck

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.32.010 / STOP AND YIELD INTERSECTIONS

Chief Wenten advised that staff brought to his attention the need to address traffic control signage placement at Bridge Street and 11th Avenue. Vehicles leaving the Berkshire and Heritage exit onto Bridge Street, and due to the angle parking, there is limited visibility. Chief Wenten asked that a stop sign be posted for eastbound traffic on Bridge Street.

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to recommend the Village Board approve an Ordinance amending Section 10.32.010 / Stop intersections to include a stop sign on Bridge Street at 11th Avenue. Approved unanimously.

SCHOOL ZONE / JOHN LONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sue Meinecke, as well as Sheri Hanson, 820 Sixth Avenue, and Ellen Knier, 739 Sixth Avenue, were present to discuss safety concerns for children crossing Hickory Street to attend Woodview and John Long Middle School. Mrs. Meinecke has noticed that parents drive off quickly after dropping off their child in the driveway turnaround, many of them failing to look in both directions for pedestrians on the sidewalk. She stated that Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Avenues are all marked crosswalks, with the crossing guard positioned on Seventh Avenue. She has witnessed "close calls" with vehicles nearly striking pedestrians crossing these streets.

Chief Wenten noted he has been working with Principal Kabara and Sgt. Podewils for a solution to this issue. Sixth graders are being requested to be dropped off on Ninth Avenue to alleviate some congestion. Parents have been asked to pull all the way forward in the driveway. In addition, two pedestrian crossing signs have been ordered. Additional patrol has been directed at that location when available.

Mrs. Meinecke brought up the idea of yard signs stating "Slow down children crossing" that could be placed strategically in the neighborhoods adjacent to the schools. Mrs. Knier advised she has noticed many vehicles and buses are not yielding to pedestrians. Chair Grant requested she call the bus company with information on these negligent bus drivers. She also informed the Committee that the morning drop off is the worst time for traffic issues.

POLICE OVERTIME COMPARISON / JULY AND AUGUST 2010

Chief Wenten advised that training and time off continue to be scheduled. The current overtime is slightly lower than last year.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

A request for signage at 11th Avenue at Maple Street was requested with Chief Wenten advising the speed trailer had been placed at that location in the past, and showed no significant speed issues. The intersection is very visible, in a quiet neighborhood, and is not a feeder street. He recommends no signage, and the Committee agreed with his assessment.

The 2011 budget was briefly discussed. Chief Wenten advised that the Police Department budget has been submitted, and our non-personnel or "controllable" figures overall, are at or under last year's budget.

The impact the hospital will have on calls for service was discussed, with Chief Wenten advising there may be a significant impact on calls.

Installation of the HAWK system is set for late September.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.