

**VILLAGE OF GRAFTON**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 11, 2011**

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Jim Grant

Committee members present: Jim Grant, David Liss and Lisa Harbeck

Staff/Officials present: Chief Charles Wenten, Village President Jim Brunnuell, and Administrative Assistant Pat Hofstad

**PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD**

Ted Warwick was present to discuss the Inaugural Winter Festival in Grafton to be held on February 12, 2011. The event will be held at Veterans Park with some activities at Lime Kiln Park. Activities that Mr. Warwick wanted to bring to the Public Safety Committee's attention include having a fire pit on the ice, the possibility of a hayride, and a beverage stand.

Trustee Liss was concerned about having the fire pit on the ice. It was noted that the fire would be elevated; however, Mr. Warwick will consult with the Fire Department to assure it is not a safety issue.

It was discussed that the traffic signals at 13th Avenue and Washington Street will not be in place in time for the event. Chair Grant asked Chief Wenten if Reserve Officers would be available for traffic control at that intersection. He will check if resources are available.

In regards to a beverage stand, the Police Department prefers that wristbands be issued and boundaries set for the beverages. Chair Grant recommended keeping it in the Grafton Pavilion area where restrooms are available.

There was no routing information on the hay rides. Mr. Warwick will meet again with Chief Wenten if hay rides are an option and if further details are available.

Pam King, representing the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, expressed interest in having a St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, in the late afternoon. This event would be small and would be on the Riverwalk. She had no more specifics available. Chief Wenten was concerned that there is very limited area for staging. Ms. King said this is in the beginning phase and she will keep the Committee informed.

**TOUR DE CURE 2011 BIKE RIDE**

Chief Wenten advised the bike ride has worked out well in the past and the riders are released in stages. He recommended this ride be approved.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve the Tour de Cure bike ride on June 18, 2011. Approved unanimously.

## **REQUEST FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WALK**

A walk for MS is requested for April 16, 2011 starting and ending at the Grafton High School, and running from 10 a.m. to noon. The route was reviewed, and Chief Wenten recommended approval of the event.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve the walk to benefit multiple sclerosis as presented.  
Approved unanimously.

## **REQUEST FOR 13TH AVENUE STREET CLOSURE**

Kris and Peter Raymond, representing the Grafton Blues Association, are requesting to close off 13th Avenue from Bridge Street to Washington Street for a music festival on May 21. The proposed stage and beverage area would be in the Village Center lot, fenced in with security. There will be 9 bands with diversified music, and the festival is free to the public. At a recent meeting, all of the downtown businesses were in favor of the event.

Chief Wenten asked if Mrs. Kruetzer, 1225 13th Avenue was advised of the event. Mrs. Raymond said she has not been; however, they would be happy to make arrangements for her to exit her residence during the event.

Chief Wenten also mentioned the need for emergency vehicles to access the area, and that an Officer will need to assist at the entrance/exit onto Wisconsin Avenue for traffic control, with costs reimbursed by the Grafton Blues Association.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Village Board approve the street closure of 13th Avenue from Bridge Street to Washington Street for the Music Festival on May 21, 2011 Approved unanimously.

## **REPORT OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS**

Chief Wenten advised the benchmarks have not drastically changed from 2009, other than a significant rise in criminal complaints. The statistics reflect that Grafton continues to be a safe, quality community.

Chair Grant discussed the amount of people being assisted in the Police Department lobby (16,500 estimated), again vocalizing how important a 24 hour dispatch center is to Grafton.

## **POLICE OVERTIME COMPARISON / OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

The December overtime is down from 2009 and the police department came in under budget.

## **OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

Update / Pedestrian crossing / Hickory Street at John Long Middle School

Chair Grant said the pedestrian signs are now up at the Hickory Street crosswalk.

Update / Completion date of pedestrian crossing signal / 13th Avenue and Washington Street

The HAWK pedestrian crossing signal completion date has been delayed, possibly until the end of February.

Parking restriction request / 11th Avenue and Hickory Street

Chief Wenten discussed a request from a resident for parking restrictions at 11th Avenue and Hickory Street. He indicated the resident has a valid point as a driver has to creep into the lane of traffic to exit onto Hickory Street due to a lack of visibility. He will review accidents statistics and monitor the area, and this item will be on the February agenda.

Police Department / End of year fund balances

This information will not be available until February

Police Department / Shared service list

Chief Wenten provided Chair Grant a list of shared services the police department which will be further discussed next month. Chief Wenten advised the telecommunicators are now participating in the M.A.B.A.S. (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) with the Fire Department. Telecommunicators will be alerted by special equipment if our fire department is needed for mutual aid. He was present during a test drill of the system which re-affirmed the difficult and intricate job the telecommunicators have.

BBQ Festival – Downtown event

President Brunnuell advised he believes Grafton is ready for a professional event that would leave an impact with the participants, and proposed that Grafton host a professional BBQ event. Committee members were given an overview of activities over a 2 day period, including professional BBQ stands, vendors selling a variety of crafts and artwork, music and much more.

He requested feedback from the Committee prior to a commitment being made with Star Events, the professional event organizer. A concrete date for the event has not been set; however, they are looking at the second or third week in August.

Chair Grant wanted to make clear that a larger event such as this puts a strain on Police Department resources, and any overtime costs should be reimbursed to the Village. Chief Wenten added that summer events also pose a difficulty for personnel due to vacations.

A map was reviewed showing the potential street closures, with Bridge Street recommended closing from 12th Avenue to past the Bridge Street bridge. Chief Wenten was very concerned regarding the impact of closing the bridge on Bridge Street and isolating 14th Avenue (Grafton Mill) as well as access to the riverfront condos. He recommended leaving 14th Avenue open, and moving the closure to 13th Avenue.

With the road closure changes, the Committee supported the event.

Kris Raymond said there are always requests during these events if camping is available. Chair Grant recommended asking the Town Board if there is an area available for camping. Lower Lime Kiln Park was also mentioned.

**ADJOURN**

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